

GEN



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 1833 01145 6172

Gc
974.402
M75m

1289010



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019

<https://archive.org/details/historyofmonsonm00unse>

C

**HISTORY OF
MONSON
MASSACHUSETTS**



**COMPILED BY
MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1960**

Painting of Monson

by Erastus Field — About 1820



1289010

Preface

This book has been written for the purpose of providing the historical facts of the Town of Monson with as many pictorial illustrations as it has been possible to acquire.

The members of the Monson Historical Society have collected and assembled this data. For accuracy, official town records have been used. Also much additional information has been acquired from various sources, and every attempt has been made to make this history authentic.

For the reader's convenience it has been thought desirable to omit the many footnotes that would have been necessary to refer to the source of each fact related, but at the back of the book there is a complete list of the references used.

To those readers who have cherished memories of the past; to those who appreciate our heritage; and to those who are interested in Monson, may this history bring much pleasure.

New Englander, N. H. 25-6-11-0370

A Distinguished Monson Visitor



The late President of the United States, William Howard Taft, was the principal speaker at the Monson Academy alumni reunion June 12, 1917. This held a special significance for him and for the townspeople as his mother, Louise Torrey Taft, and her sister Delia Torrey, taught in the Academy in 1848 and 1849. Mr. Taft posed with Chief Justice Marcus P. Knowlton, a Monson native, in front of Miss Hattie Cushman's home. Charles Dinsmore and James Tufts may be seen in the background.



Geographical Sketch

The observer of New England would search far and long before discovering a more complete realization of the New England town idea than can be seen in the town of Monson. Lying in a narrow north and south Y-shaped valley between low wooded hills, it presents the varied charms of landscape that are characteristic of New England scenery.

In considering the geography of Monson, which has had a great influence on the lives and industries of its people, one must note the marked physiographic differences between the East and West highlands and the lowland trough between. The valley is bounded on the east and west by steep slopes of entirely different formations.

During the Cambrian Age, about four hundred million years ago, a great volcano erupted in the Connecticut Valley. It spued the minerals over this area, from Monson to the Berkshires, damming valleys, forming lakes and chasms for river streams. The remains of distinct volcanic action have been found on the southern slopes of Mount Tom, Mount Holyoke, and Leadmine in Holland. Trilobite fossils have been discovered within these rock stratas, which places the volcanic action in this era. The minerals which flowed into this section solidified near the earth's surface, forming the extrusive igneous rock formations of the West Hills of Monson. These rock formations are dolerites and ferruginous gneiss, known as Monson Granite. This gneiss is of two varieties, the mottled white and dark blue, fine grained and composed of but few minerals. The quarries located at the outcroppings of these deposits will be dealt with later.

Some of the highest elevations thus formed on the west side of the town are Bald Peak, 800 feet high; Chicopee Mountain, 800 feet; the Rock House is the precipitous side of Bunyan Mountain, 700 feet above sea level. It has been the scene of several serious accidents. Boys, who have ventured too far out on the ledges, have fallen great distances and been maimed for life. Mount Ella on West Hill is 900 feet high. It had, during the heyday of Flynt's Park, a tower at its summit from which could be

seen Mounts Monadnock, Wachusett, Bear, Sugar Loaf, Holyoke, Tom and Greylock.

Castle Hill, a lower rocky promontory on West Hill, is mentioned because, when it was surrounded by lordly chestnut trees, it was frequented after the first frost by youngsters. They rushed home from school, donned their old garb, and taking their mother's clothespole in one hand and a sack in the other, would run for the spot to be the first to gather the chestnuts. Some would climb the cliffs to be at a better advantage to hit the limbs of the tall old trees. Then down would fall the shower of nuts! The more timid would run past the fox cave, but to show bravery, some of the boys would squeeze through the aperture and try to penetrate the darkness to find the baby cubs.

It was the fate of one of those chestnut trees to become the instrument of death when a Japanese lad hung himself "because he lost face" — that is, he felt he was not doing well enough scholastically to uphold the honor of his country.

Wood Hill is 900 feet high. Moose Mountain in the west is a handsome eminence, 1100 feet high; and May Hill is 1000 feet high. The highest elevation in town, Peaked Mountain, is 1278 feet above sea level, the source of search for many rare wild flowers and birds, as well as a favorite hunting ground.

Of a much more recent formation are the hills on the eastern side of this town. Their structure dates them during the great glacial period of two hundred million years ago. As the warm era advanced the earth's great icecap receded, strewing its path with its grist of granite and sandstone, feldspar and quartz, traprock and soapstone, mica and hornblende, and pumice and schist from sources miles distant, and so intimately mixed that a few cubic yards may comprise a surprisingly complete collection of this old earth's ingredients. Thus the eastern uplands consist of coarse sand and gravel. The fields and pastures are covered with great boulders of very peculiar shapes, and the ledges are in many places smoothed and scratched by the action of the moving ice sheets.

It is hard to imagine a power that could handle such a great boulder as Pulpit Rock in Silver Street. Old residents gave no attention to the terminal moraine and ice-barrier so evident in that section, except that it is mentioned in some old deeds, "the devil's apron strings broke over Silver Street." Old folks tell of a local preacher using the great boulder for a pulpit, hence the name "Pulpit Rock."



PULPIT ROCK

A group of huge boulders, known by the name of "Cat Rock," provided the children of the south part of the village with a place to explore. Here they built their camp fires and imagined they were living in the cave-man era; hunting wild animals and sighting the enemy coming up or down the river valley.



CAT ROCK

Before this great ice age there must have been a huge, wide, rushing river flowing through the valley. If one wishes to ex-

plore, he can travel along Moulton Hill to where the old Tupper place was located. Through the woods, directly east, down the incline, nearly to the headwaters of Conant's Brook—if you are lucky—you will locate the "Devil's Punch Bowl." This is a huge rock with a hole worn out of the middle by the action of a giant whirlpool. Following the now small stream, you will come to deep ravines which only a swift rushing river could have worn down.

In the valley great masses of glacial deposits were left. These deposits were sometimes piled up in rounded hills known as drumlins. Examples of such formations are: the west side of Bethany Road; or again Rooster Hill at South Monson — the site of the old No. 8 Schoolhouse; Center Hill upon which the Congregational Church stands; and the hill between Green Street and Main Street on which the Catholic Church is located.

When a greater piece of glacier broke off or melted away, an esker was formed. A good example is found on the east side of Stafford Road where the Monson Sand and Gravel Company is busily engaged in transporting it to many parts of the country. It was this esker which turned much of the water supply to the south and east.

The ice barrier melted and receded into the Arctic and many ponds remained. Others were formed later by man damming up the streams for power and water supply. The brooks dash among the rocks divided; some flowing north like the Chicopee, which joins the Quaboag in the northern part of the town, then flows on to help make the Chicopee River. Twelve Mile Brook flows northwest from Colton Hollow through Silver Street to the Chicopee River. Some brooks flow south, such as the Cedar Swamp brooks which form State Line Pond; others eastward into Wales, and still others west to the Scantic in Hampden.

It was this glacial action which was the cause of the eastern side of the valley being settled long before the granite hills of the west. The soil was more loosely deposited making tillage much easier. It was easier to dig and stone up wells. The evergreen trees grew far more abundantly. Roads could be built more quickly and travel was easier; cellars dug and foundations laid with less effort. The eastern hill was a favorable place on which to settle.

Monson is bounded by Palmer on the

north, Brimfield and Wales on the east, Stafford, Connecticut, on the south, and Wilbraham and Hampden on the west. This is truly a beautiful town, located about 88 miles west by southwest of Boston and 15 miles east of Springfield. It embraces about 54

square miles; its assessed area being about 26,000 acres. Its greatest length is about nine miles and its width about seven miles, with still plenty of room to live and move and enjoy the love of nature.

Historical Background

"When time who steals our years away
Shall steal our pleasures, too,
The mem'ry of the past will stay
And half our joys renew."
— Moore

The development of this territory began with the coming of the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620. By 1628 a settlement had been made at Salem and two years later at Boston. In the year 1630 seventeen ships sailed from England's shore bringing 1600 passengers to this wilderness seeking freedom from the great political unrest in England. Among them were John Winthrop and his friend William Pynchon who brought the charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay Colony. This charter, on public display in the Archives Division of the State House in Boston, was granted by Charles I, King of England, in 1629 to the "Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in Newe England."

These early settlers heard many tales from the Nipmuck Indians who came to trade, bringing their beaver skins in exchange for trinkets, hatchets, knives and wampum. They told of the beauty and rich soil of the valley of the "long river," Quinecicut. As the early settlers depended upon agriculture for their livelihood, they were attracted by these tales and decided to move "west." It seems strange to us to think of the Connecticut River as once having been the Western Frontier.

In 1635 William Pynchon, John Cable, a carpenter and John Woodstock, an Indian guide, investigated this region. Upon returning to Roxbury they persuaded a group of eight men to migrate with their families to this fertile valley. The General Court in 1636 granted leave to settle this new plantation — thus Springfield was born, with William Pynchon acting as its leader for the first fifteen years. It must have taken real courage for families to start out with all their possessions and travel through this

wilderness, along the old Bay Path, where Indians—at times savage and unfriendly—and wild animals were the only inhabitants. The very next year this new settlement was forced to help fight the Indians in the Pequot War!

These early settlers purchased their land from the Indians for 18 fathoms of wampum, 18 coats, 18 hatchets, 18 knives, and 18 hoes. According to a deed recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, July, 1679, the extent of this land was considerable—extending on both sides of the Connecticut from Longmeadow to the Chicopee River. *Peck's History of Wilbraham* gives copies of several early treaty deeds with the Indians.

In 1662, Springfield, Northampton and Hadley, the only three townships then settled, were joined into a county to which was given the name of Hampshire. The south boundary was the Colony line; in every other direction the county bounds were to be thirty miles from any of the three towns. It was not until February 20, 1812, that the southern part of Hampshire County was set off as Hampden County—which accounts for the fact that many early deeds and wills were filed in Northampton.

In 1657, one hundred three years prior to Monson's incorporation, the General Court had granted two hundred acres of land to Richard Fellows, who was then engaged in transporting lead on horseback from the lead mine in Sturbridge to Springfield. He was given this grant on condition that he erect a tavern for travelers on the Bay Path passing between Springfield and Brookfield. Due to fear of, and trouble with the Indians he abandoned the place and returned to Springfield. The site of Fellows' Tavern was definitely established in 1902 by O. P. Allen.

Mr. Allen published his findings in the *Springfield Republican* and suggested that the site be marked with an appropriate monument. The W. N. Flynt Granite Company prepared suitable memorials to indicate the

site and exercises were held to honor the occasion. A tin box containing the *Springfield Republican* with O. P. Allen's historical account and a copy of the *Palmer Journal* were deposited beneath the granite block which marked the spot where the tavern stood — about twenty-five rods in the rear of Howard Fay's house — just over the line in the town of Monson on the road from Palmer. The marker bore this inscription:

Site of
Fellows'
Tavern
1657

Opposite the Fay house another granite slab was placed which called attention to the site reading:

Site of
Fellows' Tavern
built 1657
First house in Monson
also first house
between Springfield
and Brookfield
Marked by slab
25 rods due west
from this monument
Erected 1902 by
O. P. Allen and
W. N. Flynt Granite Co.

The smaller slab is still in the rear of Mr. Fay's home, but the larger one has disappeared, possibly by flood waters, the construction of a bridge or the improvement of the highway which is the direct route from Palmer to Monson.

The history of the western part of Brimfield becomes the history of the territory now known as Monson. On June 20, 1701, the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, in compliance with the petition of twenty-one citizens of Springfield, appointed a committee of five Springfield men: Major John Pynchon, Captain Thomas Colton, James Warriner, David Morgan and Joseph Stebbins, to lay out a new township to the eastward of Springfield, to allot lands, and to have the general management of the affairs of settlement. The township was to be eight miles square from the outward commons of Springfield. Grants of land were to be made to sixty families; but no more than 120 acres were to be assigned to any one person. The committee was instructed to take possession within one year's

time, settle ten families within three years, and seventy within five years; settling also a learned and pious minister. Three attempts were made to locate the best spot for the "town plot" or central village. Finally the most likely place for the center of the town was located on King's Hill, later called Grout's Hill, and now known as East Hill. The first grants of land were made December 31, 1701, to thirteen persons on condition that they should begin the following spring "to subdue their lands." This condition was not fulfilled and for a number of years no grants were made. The reason given was that "through the Distress of War, they Could not Possibly settle ye Place In Such manner and time as was appointed."

Robert Olds was the first actual settler within the present boundary of Monson. Land records show that in 1715 he sold land in Springfield and removed to a new claim just south of the Fellows farm in the then Town of Brimfield. Olds lived on this farm until his death in 1736 when the property was sold to James Merrick. The farm was later owned by Cornelius Foley and is now in the possession of Paul and James Meurisse.

In 1714 Brimfield was granted an extension of three miles to the east and the town center was changed to Tower Hill. It was not until 1731 that the General Court settled the conflicting titles to the town lands, finally confirming the grants made by the first committee. It was further ordered that the whole of the remaining lands should belong to certain grantees, eighty-four in number, to be divided among them. The first allotment was 120 acres to each proprietor as a full share. Each drew a number which fixed his order in the division of the land. A total of 40,964 acres was thus distributed of which total, 26,000 acres, was located in Monson. The home sites of those settlers in the western portion of Brimfield at the time of this distribution are indicated on the map in the front of the book.

On June 7, 1759, a petition was sent to the General Court by the inhabitants of the west part of the Town of Brimfield, requesting to become a separate district, because "we live and labour under very great Difficulties in attending the Public Worship of God by Reason of our living so Remote from the meeting House."

Examination of the Proprietor's Book, early deeds and other papers, has yielded the following list of men who are believed to have been living within the territory soon

to become Monson: Richard Bishop, Ebenezer Bliss, Josiah Bliss, James Blodgett, Thomas Blodgett, Joseph Colton, Josiah Conway (?), Joseph Craft, John Davidson, John Davis, Robert Dunkley, Joseph Foot, Nathaniel Fuller, J. Ferry, Marke Ferry, Jonathan Frost, Humphre Gardner, William Gold, Aarons Graves, Nicholas Groves, James Grow, Stephen Hatch, Edmund Hoar, Reuben Hoar, David Hitchcock, Jabez Keep, Josiah Keep, Simeon Keep, Jacob Kibbee, Samuel Kilborn, Samuel King, Thomas King, Jonas Mace, Aaron Merrick, Ebenezer Merrick, James Merrick, James Merrick, Jr., Phineas Merrick, Joseph Moulton, Benjamin Munn, Benjamin Munn, Jr., Nathaniel Munn, Nathaniel Munn, Jr., Nathaniel Rogers, James Shaw, Joshua Shaw, Joshua Shaw, Jr., John Shields, Francis Sikes, Thomas Stebbins, Daniel Warner, Daniel Woods, John Woods, Ebenezer Wood, Stephen Wood, 3 tenants and one people of color.

In spite of strong protest by the representative from Brimfield, the petition was granted on April 25, 1760. The new district was named Monson by Governor Pownall in honor of his friend, Admiral Monson, then president of the British Board of Trade.

The English government had taken offense and alarm at the increasing numbers and power of the representative element in the Massachusetts legislature. The incorporation of new towns was forbidden unless they would consent to forego the privilege of representation. The inhabitants of Monson had all the rights of a town with this exception, that they should unite with Brimfield in the choice of a representative. Monson was regularly incorporated as a town on October 20, 1775.

The first town meeting in 1760, expressed as "district meeting," was called on a warrant issued by Captain John Sherman, who was physician, school teacher, town clerk, and justice of the peace of Brimfield. This meeting was warned by Constable Samuel King and was held at his home.

In 1762, a town meeting was held in a tavern kept by Richard Bishop, which was located a little west of the present Monson Consumers' Cooperative Store site. At this meeting a committee was appointed to obtain a site for the raising of a meeting house. This was accomplished by procuring land from Colonel Dwight and erecting a meeting house, plain and primitive, near the location of the present Congregational Church. It served two purposes: a place to

worship and a place to hold official town meetings. Previous to this the settlers met at various homes for worship.

To help finance the erection of this first meeting house, a grant was secured from the General Court for permission to apply a tax of a penny an acre on all land in the town for a duration of two years.

One has but to read the town's records to realize that the church in the early days was the very heart of the life of the community.

FAC SIMILE OF

THE FIRST WARRANT

For Town Meeting in the Town of Monson,

HELD JUNE 9TH, 1760.

*Hampshire ss: To Samuel King of Monson
District in the County aforesaid Gentleman greeting*
*In his Majesties Name you are hereby Required
to Notific & Warn the Inhabitants of Monson
qualified to Vote in town affairs, that they
Meet & assemble themselves together at the house
of Mr. Samuel King in sd Monson; on Monday
the 9th Day of June next, at twelve of y^e Clock
on sd Day, then and there to Elect & Choose
all such officers as shall be Necessary to
Manage the Affairs of sd District; Dated
at Brimfield the 28th Day of May, and
33^d Year of His Majesties Reign, Anno^o
Domini 1760: ————*
John Sherman Just Pac.

Return on the back of the Warrant, by Samuel King, Great-Grandfather of Sylvanus King, who presented the original to the town of Monson, in October, 1885.

*Hampshire ss June 6: 1760
By virtue of this warrant
I have warned the Inhabitants of Monson District
according to the Direction
of sd warrant
Sam^l King*

Warrant of First Town Meeting



MONSON, MASS., AS IT WAS IN 1860.

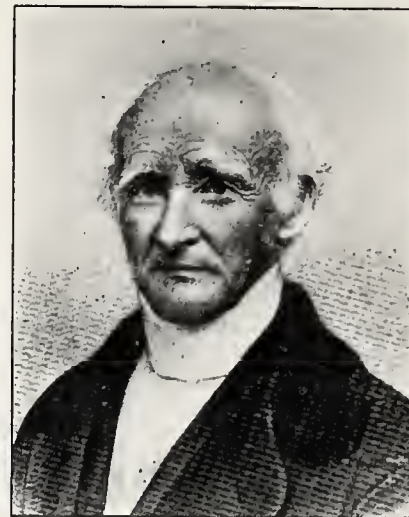
Church History

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Congregational Church was officially organized on June 23, 1762, with the following members, most of whom transferred by letter from Brimfield: Josiah Bliss, Joseph Colton, Joseph Craft, John Davidson, James Grow, Mrs. David Hitchcock, Edmund Hoar, Mrs. Josiah Keep, Josiah Keep, Mrs. John Keep, Samuel King, Ebenzer Merrick, Benjamin Munn, Benjamin Munn, Jr., Nathaniel Munn, Nathaniel Rogers, Thomas Stebbins, Thomas Stebbins, Jr., Frances Sykes, Daniel Warner.

The Council on that day ordained Abishai Sabin, who served the church until 1771, when poor health forced him to retire from active duties. Reverend Jesse Ives succeeded him, and his pastorate of thirty-three years covered a period of great importance in the life of the town, the state, and the nation. During the Revolutionary War he served for eighteen months as a chaplain in the Continental Army.

In 1803 a second meeting house was built. It was a fine example of church architecture of that period. Three years later the Reverend Alfred Ely became its pastor. His pastorate extended from 1806 to 1866, which included thirty-six years of active service, and the remaining years as senior pastor.



REV. ALFRED ELY, D.D.



HOME OF DR. ELY



SECOND MEETING HOUSE
DEDICATED NOV. 16, 1803

The first bell, a gift of Deacon Abel Goodell, was placed in the church soon after its erection in 1803. It was given on condition that it should be rung on his birthday each year. Deacon Goodell died six years after the installation of the bell.

In 1830 the bell became cracked and was replaced in 1831. Regulations for ringing the new bell were as follows: for worship services, at noon, at nine o'clock in the evening, tolled at the death of all persons in the town (counting the number of their years), and at their funerals. The ringing of the bell announced the deaths of three presidents, summoned people from their slumber to help extinguish fires, and announced the dawn of the anniversary of Independence.

Revival services were held from time to time and in 1806 one hundred eleven

people joined the church as a result of a revival movement.

Extensive repairs were made on the meeting house in 1833, raising the floor eight feet, introducing modern pews, and adorning the walls. The cost was over three thousand dollars.

Thirty-three years later, in the summer of 1871, this second meeting house was sold and removed to the site of the present A & P store on the east side of Main Street, nearly opposite the Soldiers' Monument. The first floor was fitted up for stores, while above was a community room known as Green's Hall.

This third building built near the old site was dedicated June 18, 1873. The total cost for building and furnishings was about forty thousand dollars.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This church has had two organs. The first was rather small. The second, a large Johnson organ, was given by Miss Esther R. Holmes. It was installed in 1892 at a cost of six thousand dollars. This organ was com-

pletely renovated in 1953. An extensive remodeling program on the church is now in progress. Sunday School rooms are being made in the basement, also other improvements to meet present-day needs.

Over the years there have been several organized church groups. In 1820, a Sabbath School was instituted by Hannah Ely; 1827 a Ladies' Praying Circle, which in 1874 became the Foreign Missionary Society; 1845 a Benevolent Society and a Young Ladies' Working Club. In 1907 these two societies united to form the Dorcas Society. The first Men's Club was formed in 1901, and a Mr. and Mrs. Club organized in 1936. In 1957 a group of women formed the Hearts' Willing Club and a men's club became active in 1959. The Young People's Christian Association of 1884 became the Christian Endeavor Society in 1888, and is now called Youth Fellowship.

For several years the church adopted the plan of contributing to the support of a special foreign missionary — one being the Reverend Henry H. Bennett who often visited in Monson when on furlough.

The present church and the former parsonage on High Street now owned by Rowland H. Long were erected during the pastorate of the Reverend Charles B. Sumner. The parsonage was built in 1869-1870. The present parsonage at 1 Ely Road was bequeathed to the Congregational Church by Frank Nelson who died in 1947.

The church membership as of January 1, 1960, was 369 and the Sunday School membership was 209. A new pastor, the Reverend Carlos H. Straight, assumed the pastorate duties on May 1, 1960.

Ministers:

Abishai Sabin, 1762-1771
 Jesse Ives, 1773-1805
 Alfred Ely, 1806-1866
 Samuel C. Bartlett, 1843-1846
 Charles B. Kittredge, 1846-1853
 Theron A. Colton, 1855-1868
 Charles B. Sumner, 1868-1879
 Ezra H. Byington, 1880-1887
 Franklin S. Hatch, 1887-1901
 N. Miller Pratt, 1901-1906
 George A. Andrews, 1907-1916
 Langley Sears, 1916-1918
 Charles N. Lovell, 1919-1925
 Daniel Bliss, 1926-1929
 Stanley F. Blomfield, 1930-1942
 J. Albert Clark, 1942-1947
 Howard Gould, 1947-1951
 Louis Thompson, 1951-1959
 Carlos H. Straight, 1960-

METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism was introduced to the inhabitants of Monson in 1825 by Horace Moulton, who later became the Reverend Horace Moulton, and two other students at Monson Academy. Meetings were held at the north and south villages and in the center during the fall.

The Reverend Joel W. McKee, preacher in charge of the Brookfield Circuit at that time, preached the first Methodist sermon here. He was considered an uncommonly effective preacher.

The first group was made up of twenty members. In 1827 they erected a chapel twenty by forty feet in the south part of town at a cost of five hundred dollars. It was dedicated free from debt, and was used for twenty-five years, after which it was converted into a dwelling. It is now owned and occupied by Charles Coolong and family.

On October 8, 1850, a new and larger church was dedicated on the present site by the Reverend Abel Stevens at a cost of three thousand, three hundred dollars. The following ten years were prosperous ones, and it became necessary to enlarge the church by the addition of twenty feet in the front.



METHODIST CHURCH

The auditorium was then refinished in oak. A circular pulpit platform was installed with the choir gallery directly in back of it. Other furnishings were a new pulpit set, communion table and carpet.

Two very beautiful memorial windows were presented — one by the Reverend W. H. L. Starks and the other by a King's Daughter in memory of the order of King's Daughters. The latter has at the top the emblem of the order, a maltese cross, with the words, "In His Name."

Due to the hurricane the supports of the steeple were weakened, and it seemed advisable in 1952 to remove it. It was possible to keep the original bell which was cast in 1860. Even so, the church now stands as a typical New England white wooden church in the center of town. It has a fine auditorium, a Steere pipe organ, and a vestry which was recently redecorated.

The parsonage on Green Street was purchased in 1893 from a stock company for the sum of two thousand eight hundred dollars.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society was organized in 1854. This later became the Ladies' Aid Society and is now known as the Women's Society for Christian Service. The Junior Epworth League organized in 1893 is now called the Youth Fellowship Group. The Young Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society was organized in 1889 and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in 1893.

Ministers:

Joel W. McKee, 1825-26
 Isaac Jennison, 1827-28
 Horace Moulton, 1830-31
 Enoch Bradley, 1832
 Ebenezer F. Newell, 1833
 Amasa Taylor, 1834
 Horace Moulton and George W. Green, 1835
 Otis Wilder and J. O. Dean, 1836
 J. W. Lewis, 1837-1838
 Charles Virgin, 1839
 William Gordan, 1840
 Thomas Giles, 1841
 David Sherman, 1842
 H. S. Shedd, 1843
 R. P. Buffington, 1844
 Spencer Tillerton, 1845
 William A. Clapp and Elder Bennett, 1846
 Elder Bennett, 1847
 James Billings, 1848
 W. B. Olds, 1849-50
 John W. Dadman, 1851-52
 John Paulson, 1853-54
 David K. Merrill, 1855-56

Silas Hiper, 1857
 Thomas B. Treadwell, 1858-59
 Alfirmus O. Hamilton, 1860-61
 Frederick Woods, 1862-63
 Hiram P. Satchwell, 1864-65
 Rodney H. Howard, 1866-68
 Charles K. True, 1869
 William J. Pomfret, 1870-72
 William Silverthorne, 1873-74
 Osman W. Adams, 1875-76
 Henry Lummis, 1877-78
 Charles A. Merrill, 1879-81
 E. Stewart Best, 1882-83
 Alexander Dight, 1884-86
 John W. Emerson, 1887-88
 Thomas C. Martin, 1889-91
 William C. Marble, 1892-97
 A. R. Nichols, 1898-99
 A. W. L. Nelson, 1900-02
 A. B. Gifford, 1903-07
 J. M. Gage, 1908-10
 F. W. McConnell, 1911
 W. A. Kilmer, 1912-14
 W. G. Cosgrove, 1915
 Frederick W. Gamble, 1916-18
 H. G. Buckingham, 1919-21
 R. A. Nunn, 1922-23
 R. L. Norsworthy, 1924-27
 Leroy Lyon, 1928-29
 Henry Jacobson, 1930-35
 H. Chester Hoyt, 1935-37
 Joseph A. Stevenson, 1937-42
 Alfred L. O'Brien, 1942-

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

The first mass in Monson was offered on September 8, 1850, by Father Dougherty, and from that time services were held occasionally until Father Healy of Ware built Saint Patrick's Church in 1863. It was dedicated in April, 1864, by Bishop Williams. It was first a mission of Ware, then of Palmer, and in 1878 became a separate parish.

The church, built of Monson granite and of Gothic architecture, had a steeple in which was a clock and a fine toned bell. The walls were beautifully frescoed, the panels being filled with the Stations of the Cross. The windows were of Cathedral Stained Glass, and the pews were of ash trimmed with black walnut. The choir loft contained a large Hammond organ.

In 1900, thirty-seven years after its erection, the work of transformation started. As fast as the necessary money was contributed, it was spent on the church. A Gothic tower was built; Munich windows were added; a beautiful Carrara marble altar was placed in the Sanctuary with a Pieta and a statue of Saint Joseph occupying niches to the right and left of the main altar. All were very beautiful works of art.

On August 6, 1928, a fire started near or in the organ which quickly burned the



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH AND RECTORY — BEFORE FIRE

entire ceiling and roof. Many of the large half-burned beams fell to the church floor. Fortunately, the beautiful windows, Stations of the Cross, Pieta and Saint Joseph statue were saved.

Ten months later, repairs had been completed and a very stately and beautiful edifice welcomed the parishioners once more for worship—truly a place to meditate, pay reverence to God, and to receive inspiration.



PRESENT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

The Reverend Thomas O'Keefe, who became pastor in 1894, devoted nearly fifty years of service to this church and it was through his efforts that it is considered one of the most attractive in this area.

Close to and north of the church is the rectory, erected in 1888 during the pastorate of Father Lee.

The two missions of this parish, Hampden and Wales, were known as Saint Mary's and Saint Monica's respectively. Saint

Mary's remained a mission until 1951 when a permanent pastor was named. Saint Monica's then became a mission of the Brimfield parish.

Monson Council, Knights of Columbus has served the men of the parish for the past forty years. Patricia Circle, Daughters of Isabella was organized in 1925.

Pastors:

Jeremiah McCarthy, 1878-1881

James H. Kelley, 1881-1885

John F. Lee, 1885-1894

Thomas O'Keefe, 1894-1941

Ralph O'Neill, 1942-1946

Henry Burke, 1946-1953

Henry MacCormick, 1953-1955

Richard Hoey, 1955-

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Seeds of Universalism had been sown in Monson prior to 1800 by itinerant preachers, but it was not until 1876 that Sunday afternoon meetings were held in Green's Hall. By 1882 services were held in the Central Block Hall.

Six years later Dwight W. Ellis offered to contribute to a church building fund, a sum equal to what might be raised by public subscription. In this manner twenty-six thousand dollars was raised.

The church was built of Monson granite on what was known as the "old Captain Newton's lot" at the corner of Lincoln and Main Streets. It has a very attractive auditorium with beautiful windows facing Main Street, also Sunday School rooms and a kitchen and dining hall on the second floor. Dedication services were held on December 3, 1889.

Recently additional Sunday School rooms have been added in a wing at the rear of the building. Through the generosity of the governing board these facilities have been made available to many organizations desiring space to hold meetings, in addition to the many religious activities of the church.

Among the many church activities are the Sunday School which was organized in 1883, both a Junior and Senior Youth Group, the Association of Universalist Women and the Men's Club.

Since its incorporation, the church has accepted 403 persons into membership with an active membership at present of 136 per-



MONSON UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

sons. There are now enrolled in the Church School and Cradle Roll 113 persons.

Ministers:

Albert Hammat, 1883-1885
 Donald Frazer, 1885-1887
 Ira Allen Priest, 1887-1889
 Lee Howard Fisher, 1889-1891
 Harry Blackford, 1892-1899
 Charles C. Conner, 1899-1905
 Dwight M. Hodge, 1906
 Abram Conklin, 1906-1918
 George W. Penniman, 1918-1928
 Orrin A. Stone, 1928-1930
 Sidney J. Willis, 1930-1937
 Brainard F. Gibbons, 1937-1939
 George H. Welch, 1940-1944
 William P. Farnsworth, 1945-1947
 Earle T. McKinney, 1947-1954
 Vernon L. Curry, 1955-1958
 Edward R. Goodwin, Jr., 1958
 Alan F. Sawyer, Jr., 1959-

BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1768 a Baptist Church was established in the northeastern part of Wilbraham near the Monson boundary. It flourished for a number of years and then experienced a decline. In 1807 the body was reported to the Sturbridge Baptist Associa-

tion to which it was attached, as having "lost its visibility." During the existence of this church about twenty-five of its members united together and formed the "Second Baptist Church in Colton Hollow," receiving fellowship July 2, 1794. In 1815 its name was changed to that of the "Wilbraham and Monson Baptist Church." At first the church body had no special house of worship, but in 1817 a meeting house was built near the present residence of Mr. Albert Clairmont in what is now called the Colton Hollow District. In April, 1845, the name was changed to "The Monson and Wilbraham Baptist Church."

The following is a copy from the records of this church society:

"May 15 Day 1794 the Church met according to Adjournment, then proceed in the Labour Concerning the work of a Deacon. After much time spent in Labour come to no Conclusion then voted to Adjourn the meeting to Thursday, May the 29th Day at one o'clock p.m. at Nathan Peases.

"May 29 Met according to Adjournment, concluded to take up the qualifications office and work of a Deacon in their order as they stand pointed out in Scripture, as set forth Acts 6:3-5, Tim. 3:3-12. Qualifi-

cations of a Deacon: Aught to be honest — Full of the Holy Ghost, — a man of Gravity and Soberiety — A man of Faith — open hearted — not close fisted or greedy of filthy lucre. We believe that a deacon ought to be the Husband of but one wife ruling well his own children and house Hold and that their wives ought to be sober grave and faithful in all things."

For some reason the subsequent history of this church indicates a decline. The society was dissolved and the building was unoccupied for a time. In 1856 it was destroyed by fire.

Ministers:

Samuel Webster, 1794
 Stephen Shepherd, 1799
 Alvin Bennett, 1808
 Amos Snell, 1837
 Uriah Underwood, 1845
 J. M. Hunt, 1847
 J. C. Foster, 1853

On October 18, 1904, delegates of the Westfield Baptist Association voted to receive the Monson Italian Baptist Church into fellowship. This little chapel at the Quarry was made possible by the untiring efforts of the Reverend Alfred Barrone.

Later a small chapel on Thompson Street replaced the Quarry chapel. Pastors were supplied from Springfield. When services were no longer held and the group of worshippers disbanded, the chapel was sold and converted into a dwelling which is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Armand Sangermano.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A mission in connection with St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church of Springfield was established here in 1904 with services held monthly in the A. O. U. W. Hall under the charge of the Reverend Charles Edwin

Hill, the priest in charge of Saint Andrew's Mission of Ludlow. These services were discontinued about 1913.

SILVER STREET CHAPEL

This chapel was built on land given by the Warriner family. Lumber was contributed by the Freitag, Reimers, Thayer and Amidon families and the church was dedicated in June, 1898. The pastor of the Monson Congregational Church and pastors of neighboring towns assumed the pastoral duties for Sunday services. Occasional services are still held at this chapel.



SILVER STREET CHAPEL

Education

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

After the erection of a meeting house and "settling" a minister, the attention then turned toward making provision for the education of the children. By 1765, three schools were maintained for a short time each year, and 10 pounds was granted for this purpose.

Six years later the effort "to new settle the school districts" was successful, and a committee consisting of Joseph Colton and others divided the town into nine districts. For several years 25 to 35 pounds was appropriated for school expenses.

In this early district system the management of school affairs in each district was conducted by the voters within its limits. A warrant was issued for a meeting the same as is done for a town meeting. A moderator, clerk, and prudential committee were chosen. The property of the district was assessed by the prudential committee and a percentage was allowed for school purposes. In addition to this allotment the town appropriated a small sum to be used where most needed, and the state assisted as well. At times the portion of money belonging to a district was given to a certain person to be "schooled out." A number of such votes appear in the records.

Each family in a district was expected to either furnish firewood for the school, or "board" the teacher. Sometimes a teacher lived in as many as ten homes during a single term. There were two school terms a year, the summer term beginning in May and the winter term on the Monday following Thanksgiving.

At the end of the town year each committee member, sometimes called district agent, rendered a report on the school or schools he was in charge of. This report included the condition of the school property and the progress of the pupils.

During the Revolutionary War the appropriation for schools went as high as 100 pounds, but in 1791 it dropped to 60 pounds. This fluctuation was due to the low value of paper money during the war. About the beginning of the nineteenth century the town regularly appropriated about \$500 for its schools, and also made an effort to go



No. 2 — Former Colton Hollow School — Now Owned by Frank Avery — Upper Hampden Road.



No. 4 School — Grout or East Hill School — Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Austin — Located on the corner of Brimfield Road and East Hill Road — Built in 1877.



No. 5 — Old Quarry School, moved from Hovey Hill to present site on Upper Palmer Road. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Monette.

REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of School District No. 8, in Monson, holden on the 18th of May, 1859, the following Resolutions were adopted, as Regulations and By-Laws for the maintenance of good order, and the promotion of the interests of the schools, and ordered to be printed.

E. R. WALKER, Clerk.

AUSTIN KING, } Prudential
GEORGE L. TOPLIFF, } Committee.

P R E A M B L E .

In order to secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings and benefits of School Education in this Commonwealth, it becomes necessary that Parents, Guardians, Teachers, and Pupils should co-operate with becoming energy, perseverance and harmonious efforts, in the use of all suitable measures, to promote so desirable an object.

We, therefore, citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and inhabitants of School District No. 8, in Monson, in consideration of the importance of the subject, added to that of a new and commodious School House completed during the past season, do hereby covenant with each other, and agree to conform to, support and sustain the following Rules, Regulations and By-Laws, for the security and promotion of the welfare and prosperity of our Schools in said District.

Duties of Prudential Committees.

RESOLVED—That so long as there shall be a Prudential Committee in said District, it shall be his duty to keep a faithful oversight of the School House, both during the terms of School and in times of vacation; he shall keep the doors locked, and the windows and blinds closed during school intervals; he shall see to the making of all such repairs as have been formerly made by his predecessors in office, and to the procuring of all necessary utensils for the use of water, and for keeping the house clean and suitable for occupancy; he shall make contract with a responsible person to build fires for warming the House, and shall be himself responsible to the District for the faithful fulfilment of said contract; and previous to the commencement of each term of the Schools, shall see that the House, out-buildings, yards and premises are in a condition favorable to the prosperity of the Schools. It shall also be his duty to procure Teachers for the Schools, and in their selection shall admit such only, who in point of character and requisite attainments are amply qualified for the duties of their calling and station.

Duties of Instructors.

RESOLVED—1st. That the instructors of

the Schools shall punctually observe the hours appointed for opening and dismissing the same, and during School hours shall faithfully devote themselves to the object of their charge; and instruction in morals and deportment is required to be daily given by them to the pupils both by precept and example.

2d. It shall be the duty of the Teachers to give vigilant attention to the ventilation and temperature of the School rooms, so as to effectually change the air whenever it shall have become impure and uncomfortable; and, whenever by sitting and study the pupils become weary, the Teachers may institute some convenient and suitable physical or gymnastic exercise.

3d. The Instructors shall prescribe such rules for the use of the yards and out-buildings of the School House as shall insure their being kept in a neat and healthful condition. They shall examine them as often as may be necessary for such purpose, and they shall be holden responsible for any want of neatness or cleanliness about the premises, arising from neglect of their own duty in this respect.

4th. That it is the duty of parents, masters and guardians, having the care of children, to see that they are punctual and constant in their attendance at school, and that it is the duty of the Teachers to enquire into all cases of absence or tardiness on the part of their pupils, and to consider the same a violation of the rules of school, unless a satisfactory reason can be given for such delinquency.

Duties of Pupils.

RESOLVED. 5th. That no pupil shall be allowed to depart before the appointed time of closing the school, except in case of sickness or some pressing emergency, and the consent of the teacher must in all cases first be obtained.

6th. No scholar shall be allowed to mar the school house, or injure it by daubing, scratching, marking, scraping, or in any other way rubbing or cutting the plastering, paint or wood on any portion of the walls, either inside or outside, on the floors or overhead, on the desks, chairs, or other furniture, on penalty of appropriate punishment. And a fine shall be imposed on the parent or guardian

of any scholar, who shall violate this rule; said fine to be deemed ample to compensate for the injury done; to be collected by the Prudential Committee, and in case of delinquency or refusal to pay, said officer shall prosecute for collection.

7th. Each scholar shall keep his or her books, maps, slates, paper, pens &c., in places assigned for them in the desks, excepting during study hours, or when needed for use.—It is recommended that each pupil shall have the frame of the slate covered with cloth or soft leather, to prevent injury to the desks; and that books be kept clean, the leaves smooth and free from scratches, or pen or pencil marks, except for some special worthy object. And no scholar shall be allowed, without leave of the teacher to meddle with the desk, or books and apparatus of another.

8th. The ink-wells are never to be meddled with by the scholars, except when needed for purposes of writing.

9th. Each scholar shall observe strict neatness and cleanliness of person, not in the school house alone, but in all the out-buildings, yards and premises, and any pupil who shall be guilty of any filthy or uncleanly act shall be deemed worthy of discretionary reproof or punishment.

10th. No pupil shall be allowed to go into the door-yards, gardens, premises, or among the fruit trees or shrubbery of any inhabitants contiguous or near to the school house premises, without leave of the owners or instructor, or unless some reasonable excuse can be rendered for so doing.

General Duties.

RESOLVED. 11th. That the age of a pupil ought not in all cases to govern a decision as to which grade such pupil shall belong; but regard shall also be had to docility, progress, and attainments, in guiding the judgment of those in whom the duty of arranging and grading the scholars may devolve.

12th. That the foregoing rules and regulations may at any future time be revised, amended, or annulled—any desirable additions, reduction or alterations may be made in them at any legal meeting of the inhabitants of the district; provided that the desire for such change be distinctly stated in the Warrent calling such meeting.



No. 6 — Former Munn District School, moved to East Hill Road and converted to home by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Koran.



No. 7 — Original appearance of Munn District School.



No. 8 — This building razed in 1917 was located on Rooster Hill, opposite present Buckwell Nursing Home.



No. 11 School was called Child's District School and was on Moulton Hill, near the present Lobik Farm. Closed in 1923.



No. 9 — Moulton Hill School was located between Plumley and Blanchard Farms. Destroyed by fire.



No. 12 — Gage District School was located at Stafford Road and Crow Hill Road. Also served later as home of Miss Bertha Goodspeed.



No. 13 — Butler District School was situated on Butler Road and was dismantled in 1950.

beyond the requirements of the State in regard to education. This effort resulted in the establishing of Monson Academy.

The first records kept by the School Committee that have been preserved are of a meeting held at the Reverend Alfred Ely's house (now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moulton, Sr.) in 1809. The Reverend Ely manifested much interest in school work. He visited schools, and was instrumental in introducing Bible reading and the study of catechism. For his work he accepted no compensation.

The School Committee's annual report of 1867 contained an honor roll of names, reported by the teachers, of those pupils who refrained from whispering in accordance with the rule of the town School Committee.

This same committee advocated and suggested that the District System be abolished, and that the schools be placed under the entire supervision of the town, which would also be conforming to the policy of the state.



Green Street School — now owned by St. Patrick's parish and used as meeting hall.



North Monson School, located on Palmer Road, now used as home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Faulkner.

No pictures available of following schools:

No. 1 School was a 4-room building at Ely Road and High Street and was in use from 1830 to 1910.

No. 7 School, commonly known as the Merrick School, was on the Aldrich property near Fay's Bridge.

No. 10 School was known as the Silver Street School. This building was destroyed by fire in 1941.

No. 14 School — North Factory School — near the site of C. F. Church Mfg. Co. No. 7 and No. 14 Schools were closed and a compromise School erected opposite Tilden Hill Road on the Palmer Road. The building now owned by Thomas Faulkner.

No. 15 School in Fentonville was at Fenton Road and Brimfield Road. Building now owned by Pasquale Cardaropoli.

Two years later, 1869, provision for a High School education for Monson pupils was made possible. The town School Committee was authorized to select resident pupils of the town who were qualified in scholarship, and to report their names to the Selectmen as persons entitled to receive tuition as High School pupils. Arrangements were made with the Trustees of Monson Academy for the town pupils to attend the Academy. Thirty-two pupils entered that year at a total cost of \$449.27.

Under the new system of school management, whereby the School Committee assumed all the duties which had been performed by the Prudential Committee, it seemed necessary to enlarge the committee by the addition of six members, making a total of twelve.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

DISTRICTS.		No. Persons between 5 and 15.	Length of School in Months.		Whole number of Schools.		Average attendance.		Percentage of Absence.		Aggregate Tardiness.		Amount of money appropriated to each District.	Wages of Teachers per Month.		NAMES OF TEACHERS.	
No.	NAMES.		S.	W.	S.	W.	S.	W.	S.	W.	S.	W.		SUM.	WIN.	SUMMER.	WINTER.
1	Center High,	182	23	3	28	38	22	30	21	21	56	283	\$675 00	\$30 00	\$40 00	Addie C. Keep,	Charles A. White,
	Center Intermediate,		23	3	41	41	31	34	24	17	233	432		28 00	28 00	Esther E. Gilmore,	Esther E. Gilmore,
	Center Primary,		23	3	54	48	37	38	31	21	108	96		26 00	28 50	Rosa M. Converse,	Lizzie P. Merrick,
2	Colton Hollow,	22	3	3	25	31	19	26	24	16	9	16	127 00	17 00	25 00	Elvira Day,	Annette C. Calkins,
3	Pease,	13	3	3	9	16	7	14	22	12	5	58	127 00	24 00	30 00	Ophelia S. Chapin,	Charles H. Hobby,
4	Grout,	16	3	3	16	16	13	13	18	18	29	13	127 00	25 00	28 00	Jane T. Pease,	Louisa C. Newell,
5	Warriner,	29	3	3	24	16	17	13	29	18	47	19	127 00	25 00	28 00	Mary E. Nichols,	Mary E. Nichols,
6	Munn,	18	2	3	15	18	11	13	27	28	20	81	127 00	25 00	24 00	Jane L. Shippey,	Lottie E. Nichols,
7	Merrick,	29	1	2	16	18	15	13	6	28	9	4	127 00	24 00	24 00	L. E. Howe,	Jane Harvey,
	Hampden High,	119	2	2	58	39	52	36	10	8	135	147	426 55	32 00	34 00	Julia M. King,	Julia M. King,
8	Hampden Intermediate,		2	2	65	44	57	40	12	9	51	89		28 00	30 00	Esther W. Needham,	Esther W. Needham,
	Hampden Primary,		2	2	42	32	24	31	31	31	31	31		16 00	16 00	Ellen P. Leonard,	Ellen P. Leonard,
9	Moulton Hill,	11	3	3	16	16	13	14	18	12	5	15	110 00	32 00	28 00	Rosie E. King,	Eliza Tupper,
10	Silver Street,	36	4	3	33	34	28	26	12	23	22	45	140 00	32 00	28 00	Kate E. Sutcliffe,	Isaac H. Packard, Jr.
10	North,	14	3	3	11	17	8	13	27	24	8	5	90 00	18 00	20 00	Julia D. Burleigh,	Lucia E. Burleigh,
11	Childs,	22	2	3	15	21	10	18	33	14	12	3	110 00	18 00	24 00	Mary L. Bliss,	Frances Carew,
12	Gage,	23	3	3	16	24	11	23	31	4	45	348	125 00	28 00	40 00	Biancy V. Pease,	George S. Pelton,
13	Butler,	11	3	3	7	9	6	7	14	22	8	1	110 00	14 00	19 00	Joanna Carew,	Joanna Carew,
14	N. Factory,	18	2	3	13	19	11	15	15	21	15	27	110 00	16 00	20 00	J. Alice Holt.	J. Alice Holt.

SCHOOL PROGRESS

1883

Drawing was introduced into the schools.
Sixteen town pupils enrolled at Monson Academy.

District School System abolished by the Commonwealth on January 1st.

1889-1890

School year was lengthened to 35 weeks, including three terms.

1890-1891

Monson and Brimfield formed a Superintendency Union.

C. W. Wasson of Friendship, New York, was appointed superintendent.

Teachers' Association was organized for study and professional growth.

School Committee was reduced to nine members.

Green Street School (No. 15) was built.

1891-1892

Monthly Teachers' Meetings were held on Saturday mornings.

1892-1893

Resignation of Superintendent Wasson was accepted.

Miss Clara A. Wood of Springfield (Mrs. Charles Jackson) was appointed to fill vacancy.

Flags were provided for schools by patriotic friends.

Three supervisors were employed (Music, Drawing, Penmanship).

Town schools were crowded.

1893-1894

New school was built on State Street (No. 16).



District school on Hovey Hill moved to Quarry Road at a cost of \$1000.

A room in Day's Block was used for Grades 7 and 8.

Report cards were introduced.

A course in Nature Study was introduced.

Grammar school pupils were allowed to enter the Academy on recommendation rather than examination.

1895-1896

School Committee was composed of seven members.

Schools in Districts 11 and 14 were not opened.

New state law voted that every school shall be provided with a flag.

Vertical writing was introduced.

An appeal for instructive books for school libraries was made.

1896-1897

School Committee was reduced to six members.

School No. 4 was closed.

Kindergarten was opened in the School Committee's room in Memorial Hall.

Committee wished to go on record in a public way, that it voted a unanimous and emphatic protest against the further licensing of the sale of intoxicating liquors in Monson.

1897-1898

Nineteen teachers and one Music Supervisor employed.

Enrollment was 696.

Cost of schools was \$13,343.

School No. 11 opened in September but closed in December.

Evening School was established in January in Green Street School building — average age 20.

Committee suggested that a curfew law should be invoked for the benefit of children and schools.

1898-1899

Frank J. Sherman appointed superintendent. New spelling books were introduced.

1899-1900

Consolidation of schools considered — Districts No. 3 and 13, Districts No. 11 and 9, and District No. 7 to Center.

1900-1901

School Committee members, salaries were \$35 and \$20.

Mr. Sherman resigned and Mr. James MacDougall of Northampton was appointed superintendent.

North Monson School was closed.

1901-1902

Reopened North Monson School.

State law relative to vaccination complied with.

1902-1903

Mr. MacDougall resigned and Mr. F. A. Wheeler of Fair Haven, Vermont, was elected superintendent.

Schools were crowded — No. 14 was reopened. No. 1 unfit for use.

1903-1904

Teachers' Study Club reorganized.

Lengthy report by School Superintendent in regard to the advantages for pupils in a central school.

1905-1906

School year was increased to 37 weeks.

Vertical writing system abolished and a medial writing system adopted.

Miss Esther Holmes furnished 1400 packets of vegetable and flower seeds to pupils in the schools.

350 entries in the fall exhibit at Memorial Hall.

Penny Savings System was established.

1906-1907

Tuition at Monson Academy advanced from \$27 to \$36.

Quarry School was crowded.

Second flower show was held in the fall.

A school physician was appointed.

Eye and ear testing were introduced.

Fenton and Childs schools discontinued.

1908-1909

School year was divided into four terms.

Dental examination introduced.

Manual Training course established.

Dr. Soule's Hall was used for a sixth grade.

Aldine Reading System was introduced.

1910-1911

Mechanic Street School built — four rooms.



Basement room at Green Street was used for Manual Training and Sewing classes.

First sanitary drinking fountains were installed.

Munn and East Hill schools were consolidated at East Hill.

1911-1912

Academy tuition was increased from \$36 to \$50.

Total school enrollment was 649.

1912-1913

Salaries for School Committee members abolished.

Three school physicians were appointed.

1913-1914

Library Extension Service was established in district schools for use of families in the district.

1915

Mr. A. D. Ellis extended an offer to the town relative to a new building at South Main Street.

Enrollment 616 pupils in nine districts.

Money from annual school entertainment was applied to playground expenses.

1916

Services of Visiting Nurse in the schools was accepted.

Evening school at Green Street School held with twelve adults attending.

North Monson School was closed.

1917

New South Main Street School opened. Total cost was about \$45,000, of which Mr. A. D. Ellis contributed \$25,000.



No. 8 School was closed and later razed.

Summer Cooking and Canning classes were held at Green Street School.

Manual Training classes were moved to South Main Street School.

1918

Schools were closed two and one-half weeks in January to conserve fuel.

Schools were closed from September 26 to November 13 because of the influenza epidemic.

Library sub-station was installed at South Main Street School.

Commercial Course was added to curriculum at Monson Academy.

Junior Red Cross work carried on in schools.

1919

Superintendent Wheeler resigned and was succeeded by Francis Brick.

Seven district schools in use — Quarry, Colton Hollow, Pease, State Line, Moulton Hill, Munn, and Silver Street.

1920

Summer school for pupils above the fourth grade was held.

1921

Nine district schools in use — East Hill reopened.

Joseph R. Burgess appointed superintendent.

American Education Week observed for the first time.

Town was notified that State exemption from the maintenance of a High School would cease July 1, 1923.

Ninth grade was eliminated and Junior High School established.

Hot lunches were served at Green Street.

1923

School Committee composed of five members.

Summer School for teachers was suggested.

Childs and State Line Schools closed.

High School classes were held at the Academy Building with Henry O. Holley as principal.

Parent-Teachers' Association was organized.

Hot lunches served at South Main Street and Mechanic Street.

1924

North Monson School sold for \$950.

Fenton School sold for \$300.

Purchased land for High School for \$2,500.

Class of 1924 first to make Washington Trip.

Total school enrollment was 780 — five district schools in use.

1925

School Committee composed of six members.

E. J. Best appointed superintendent.

New High School opened September, 1925 — construction and furnishings cost \$102,087.



1927

Silver Street School was closed.

1933

Pease District School was closed.

1934

Munn District School was closed.

1935-1936

Rural schools were abolished.

Reginald Kimball appointed superintendent.

1937

Monson Teachers' Club was formed and affiliated with the Massachusetts Teachers' Federation.

Works Progress Administration renovated various school buildings.

Greater attention was given to organized play on the playground.

1938

Transportation costs amounted to \$8,675 — About one-eighth of total school cost.

1939

Reginald Kimball resigned and Jesse J. Morgan was appointed superintendent.

An auditorium for the High School was suggested.

1940

Teachers' Manuals and plan books were introduced and report cards were revised.

1941

East Hill School was sold for \$325.

Munn District School was sold for \$190.

Pease District School was sold for \$55.

1942

Jesse J. Morgan resigned and Harold M. Ladd was appointed superintendent.

At war — difficult times — teachers resigned to enter war work.

School supplies were limited and gasoline was restricted for transportation.

Teachers assisted in O.P.A rationing program.

Pupils' Savings Accounts were discontinued.

1943

Only urgent repairs were made.

War Stamps were sold to pupils in the schools.

Students conducted various salvage campaigns.

1945

Peace came abruptly on V.J. Day, September 2, 1945.

1946

School Health Program was emphasized.

1949

Legislature passed a law making it mandatory to teach local history in the public schools.

Average salary of Elementary teachers was \$2387 and of High School teachers, \$2631.

An average of 80 meals were served daily at Monson High School cafeteria.

1950

School population was increasing. Emergency class room was built at South Main Street School for Grade I.

Beginning of Federal lunch program.

1951

Additional school housing was needed — room built at South Main Street for Grade III.

1952

Total enrollment was 751.

1953

Miss Christine Batten was appointed school supervisor for Union No. 6, comprising Monson, Brimfield and Wales. Double sessions were held for Grade I.

1954

Inservice-training program for teachers was instituted.

1956

Hillside School was opened in January with twelve classrooms for Grades I through IV.



Cost of Hillside School including furnishings was \$441,218.

High School athletic field was rehabilitated after the 1955 flood damage.

1957

Emphasis was placed on Science in the school curriculum.

Monson Free Library established a branch library at Hillside School.

1959

Total school enrollment was 944.

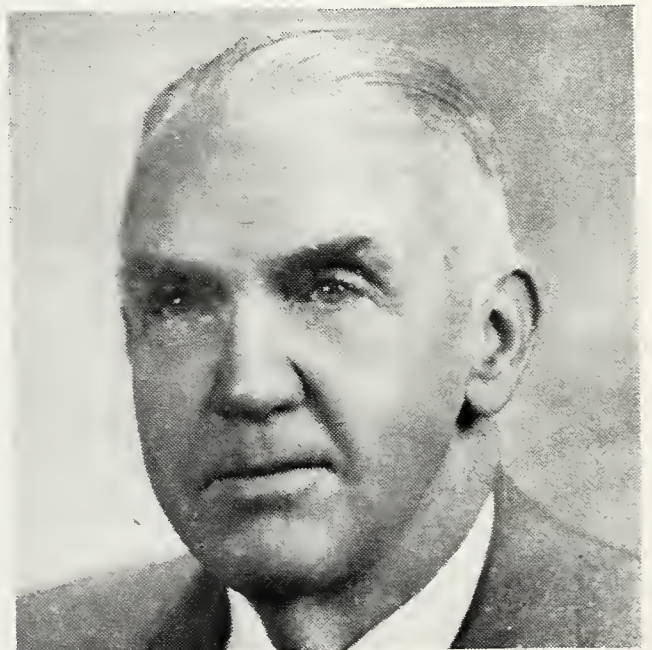
School Department costs were \$273,977.68.

1960

Five buildings are now in use: Hillside School covering grades 1 through 4; Mechanic Street School covering fifth grade and part of grade 6; State Street School covering grade 6; South Main Street School now contains the Junior High School; and Monson High School houses grades 9 through 12.

No school history would be complete without paying tribute to the school committees, superintendents, principals, and teachers who have successfully promoted the education of the pupils of Monson.

Edward T. Sutcliffe served on the school committee for twenty-seven years; Frederick Wheeler served as superintendent for sixteen years; Harold M. Ladd has been superintendent of the Brimfield, Monson, Wales Union for eighteen years; and Henry O. Holley has been principal of Monson High School for thirty-seven years. Surely these years of service are commendable, and worthy of recognition.



HENRY O. HOLLEY
Principal of High School



Harold Ladd, Supt. of Schools



Helynn Haley, School Union Secretary

Monson Academy

Unlike most independent schools, Monson Academy does not owe its origin to a single founder. From the first it has been a co-operative effort. If we must point to a single great influence behind the school, we might go back to the first president of the Board of Trustees. It was the Reverend John Willard, D.D., of Stafford, Connecticut, who joined with the local innkeeper, Joel Norcross, and the local parson, Jesse Ives, in rousing public interest to the point of getting a state charter for the founding of Monson Academy. Mention should be made also of the Reverend Alfred Ely, one of the first Trustees and an active member from 1806 to 1866.

Dr. Willard, who was graduated from Harvard as far back as 1751, was the brother of the most famous President Willard of Harvard (1781-1804) and was able to interest many of the leading scholars of the day in his Monson project. Under an act of 1797 the Massachusetts legislature had undertaken to endow with lands in the province of Maine any preparatory school built by the industry of the local people, if that particular area needed such educational facilities. For the location of such a school in this part of Western Massachusetts the

citizens of Monson and Brimfield competed, and after some debate Monson was chosen.

The Act of Incorporation of Monson Academy was passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives on June 21, 1804, and half the Township of Monson, Maine, was granted as an endowment. A fund of over four thousand dollars was collected among local citizens. Records show the names of some of the contributors as being Joel Norcross, Rufus Flynt, Timothy Packard, Amos Norcross, Deacon Royal Merrick and Deacon Haskell. The first Academy building was opened in 1806 with an enrollment of twenty-one students.



First Monson Academy — Opened in 1806

Though the school was and still is closely associated with the local Congregational Church, there has been no official religious affiliation with any group. All creeds and races were welcome. The founding fathers had hoped for a school which would attract students from all over the state, in addition to functioning as a secondary school for the Monson area. In a very few years it had a national reputation; after its first quarter-century, students were coming from all over the world.

The first headmaster, Simeon Colton, who left after his first year, in 1807, returned in 1821 and stayed for nine years. During the decade 1820-1831 the school graduated such famous men as Sophocles of Harvard, America's greatest classical scholar, who came here all the way from Smyrna in Asia Minor; Dr. Henry L. Barnard, the first United States Commissioner of Education, regarded as second only to Horace Mann in the development of the American public school; Professor W. A. Larned, late professor at Yale; and the Reverend Richard S. Storrs, D.D., of Brooklyn, New York, commonly and affectionately referred to in those days as "Prince of Preachers." A glance at the catalogues of the eighteenth-twenties show students from England, Greece, Turkey, and many parts of North America. Men went out from the Academy to open up the West and to carry the Gospel to the South Seas. The Reverend Cushing Eels and the Reverend Charles B. Summer were instrumental in founding, respectively, Whitman College in Washington and Pomona College in California.

The golden age of the school was the half-century between 1835 and 1885. This was, indeed, the period of the greatest flowering of the New England academy, and many fine old schools that made history then are no longer in existence. Only a few of the private schools survived the rival growth of the public high schools. In the middle of the last century, however, Monson built up the prestige that was to carry it through the years up to the present day, though no longer as an academy for young ladies and gentlemen, but in its new role as a preparatory school for boys.

In 1835, Charles Hammond, of Union, Connecticut, entered Monson Academy as a student. He was zealous and idealistic, one of his idols being Dr. Arnold of Rugby. In due course he was graduated and went to Yale, but in 1839 he was back in Monson — as principal. He served as principal from 1839 to 1841, from 1845 to 1852 and

again from 1863 to 1878 — a total of twenty-four years. This great man educated more distinguished personages than many a college has turned out. He towered above his fellows in the educational field. All kinds of reforms were introduced in his day, and the old dictum of "spare the rod and spoil the child" was abandoned. Like Thomas Arnold he preferred to trust to his students' honor, and he once said he would do his best to "make of Monson a smaller Rugby." During his administration the enrollment of the school was frequently above three hundred drawn from all parts of the world.

About one hundred thirteen years ago, in 1847, the first Chinese students to come to the United States enrolled at Monson Academy. Nearly a generation later the first Japanese students came, and until the end of the century there was always a fair sprinkling of Orientals amongst the student body.

The physical plant of the school, in the meantime, increased with the student body. In 1819 the first dormitory was built for the boarding students. In 1824 the first laboratory was erected and expensively equipped with apparatus "specially imported from England." The site of this old laboratory, one of the first in the country, is now occupied by the Holmes Gymnasium. In 1845, at a cost of four thousand dollars, Dr. Hammond had the entire school renovated and modernized and spent another thousand to re-equip the English department. As in the case of the original building, this large sum was raised by the townsfolk.

During this golden age of the Academy, many great men were graduated from Monson Academy. The class of 1850 was particularly brilliant. In that year Jacob Strong left to enter Williams College and eventually he became an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. The brilliant young Chinese, Wong Afun, left Monson to enter Edinburgh University and to become eventually one of his country's greatest doctors. Another young Chinese, Yung Wing, was graduated, only to return to America some years later as Commissioner of the Chinese Educational Commission and as Chinese Minister to the United States. Only two years later, in 1852, Henry Billings Brown, another future United States Supreme Court justice, was graduated. Judge Reuben Chapman, a Trustee from 1828 to 1873, and Judge Marcus Knowlton, a Trustee from 1874 to 1918, both later became Chief Justices of the Massachusetts Supreme

Court. The Reverend James Tufts was one of the outstanding principals of the Academy, his administration covering the period from 1852 to 1859. His son, James Hayden Tufts, who attended the Academy in his early teens, later became Vice-President of the University of Chicago.

The Civil War caused a temporary closing of the Academy in 1862, but it reopened the following year after two additional wings had been added to the old building.

This brief survey would not be complete without a few words about the missionary endeavors of Monson graduates. The Reverend James L. Merrick, one of the first American missionaries to Persia, was graduated in 1826, and he later established an endowment fund entitled the Persian Fund. Gilbert Rockwood, class of 1834, went to the South Seas, and William Benton, class of 1839, to Syria. The zealous young Samuel Marsh, who was graduated in 1840, died while preaching the Gospel to the Zulus in South Africa. It was the work of such men as these that helped to attract students to Monson from so many parts of the world.

The rise of free secondary education in the latter part of the last century did a great deal to decrease the need for the private school. Some establishments, including Monson Academy, served the purpose of the local high school in many rural communities. Until regular high schools were built, these private schools accepted local students, whose tuition was paid by the town. This somewhat altered the character of the older academies, but in many cases it was the means of survival.

A disastrous fire in 1886 completely destroyed the old Academy Building, but later in the same year a more substantial granite and brick building was erected. The Holmes Gymnasium was built in 1900 by Miss Esther R. Holmes in memory of her father, Cyrus W. Holmes, Jr., and Cushman Hall in 1904 by Thaddeus L. Cushman in memory

of his nephew, Frank Chapin Cushman.



Cushman Hall

An older dormitory, Hammond Hall, was at the same time torn down to make room for a headmaster's residence, Hammond Place. This building is now a dormitory. Cushman Memorial Field was given in 1911 by Edward C. Cushman and Rufus P. Cushman as a memorial to Grace Sedgwick Cushman and Frank Chapin Cushman.



Old Hammond Hall Dormitory



Second Monson Academy Building — Opened in 1886

After the first World War the town of Monson decided to build a high school. This action meant that virtually all of the Academy day students would transfer to the new institution. Consequently, the school was again temporarily closed in 1923, while arrangements were made to revert to the old status of a century before. During the next two years the Trustees granted the use of the Academy buildings to the town for use as a high school.

In 1926 the Academy was reopened as a college preparatory school for boys. The headmaster, Bertram A. Strohmeier, announced in the catalogue that the school would be "developed on an American adaptation of the English house plan. By this arrangement the boys live in small groups in separate houses under the immediate care of one or more masters." In keeping with this plan an additional dormitory, Morris House, was deeded to the Academy by Miss Esther R. Holmes in 1927, and yet another house, The Homestead, in 1937, through the generosity of Miss Hattie F. Cushman.



New Hammond Place Dormitory

No historical sketch of Monson Academy would be quite complete without a tribute to Thaddeus L. Cushman, who was a member of the Board of Trustees for thirty-



Thaddeus L. Cushman

headmaster. Under his administration the size of the student body has greatly increased.

In 1938 Holmes Gymnasium was enlarged. In that same year the disastrous hurricane struck Monson with full force. The beautiful elms that lined Main Street and surrounded the Academy were uprooted by the force of the gale.

In the immediate postwar years the Academy, sensing its obligation, admitted many returning veterans in order that they might continue their interrupted education.

The Academy acquired two additional buildings in 1947. Through the generosity of the family of Mrs. Rufus P. Cushman, Chapin House was added as a dormitory, and the home of Miss Adelaide Wingate, called Holmbrook, now serves as a dormitory and dining hall.



Homestead

eight years, Treasurer for thirty-six years, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Monson Academy Alumni Association for forty years. His deeds of unselfishness and benevolence afforded him great pleasure and satisfaction, besides providing necessities and comforts to others less fortunate than he.

In 1935 Dr. George E. Rogers became



Chapin House



Holmbrook

In 1948 the Academy constructed the new Cushman Memorial Field (formerly the site of Flynt's Park), which replaced the old field destroyed in the 1938 hurricane. An additional playing area was constructed on a lower level in 1957.

On February 23, 1953, a disastrous fire swept Academy Hall. Despite this tragedy the Academy continued to function for the remainder of the year. Plans were immediately made to rebuild on a new location at the top of the hill on High Street with the view in mind of centralizing the location of the campus. The new, modern Academy, called Alumni Hall, was completed and ready for occupancy by September, 1954. Through the efforts of alumni, staff and friends of the Academy, the new building became a reality.



New Alumni Hall

This new Alumni Hall was officially dedicated upon the occasion of the school's sesquicentennial celebration on October 9, 1954. At this time leaders in the educational field gathered at Monson to celebrate the dual occasion and to take cognizance of the role of the private school in America. The principal speaker was Dr. Charles W. Cole, President of Amherst College. Sharing the speaking honors with Dr. Cole was the Hon-

orable Thomas C. Clark, Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court.

In 1956 the Board of Trustees purchased the large colonial house and property just north of Alumni Hall for use as the Headmaster's residence. For many years it was the home of the late Robert H. Cushman and the late William H. Hodgman, both of whom had been members of the Board of Trustees.



Headmaster's House

Two years later the Board purchased a large duplex house on Flynt Avenue for use as a dormitory. It is known as Flynt House.



Flynt House

The present enrollment is two hundred thirty students, of which one hundred eighty are boarding and fifty are day students.

Dr. and Mrs. Rogers have recently completed twenty-five years of service to the Academy, during which time their efforts have been devoted to its welfare and progress. The students dedicated the 1960 edition of the "Academy Bell" to them in honor of their record and achievements.



Dr. and Mrs. George E. Rogers

Another school in Monson during the years from 1860 to 1890 was a small private school for boys or young men from four to eighteen years of age. It was conducted by James Tufts in his home on the Palmer Road. The students resided at the Tufts' home, and every effort was made to accept these boys of diversified characters and blend them into a harmonious family group.

For a time Eugene Field, the nationally known poet, was enrolled in this school. There is a book entitled *Monson* at the Monson Library which tells about Field's "school days" at the Tufts School.



Academy Bell

The Academy Bell was presented by Benjamin Fuller, school teacher, hotel keeper, and merchant, to replace the bell destroyed in the fire of 1886. The original bell had been given to the academy by his father. This bell was saved after the fire of 1953 and mounted outside Alumni Hall.

The following excerpt from a news clipping dated February 13, 1929, tells of a private school operated in Monson. "The younger generation of Monson and people outside of the town have no conception of what the term "little academy" means. It means this: Some 65 years ago, in the days of the old Monson Academy, the north room on the first floor was vacant. The late Charles Henry Merrick established a private school in this room. For the want of a better name it was called "little academy."

Two instructors deserve special recognition. Henry W. Benton has taught at Monson Academy for thirty-four years and is at present head of the Foreign Language Department. George D. Morrow has served as a member of the faculty since 1929 as an instructor in Latin and German. Both have contributed a high quality of instruction and exemplified fine leadership.



MORRIS HOUSE



Eugene Field

Other private schools were taught by Anna Bradford, Mary Carpenter, A. Green, the Reverend Charles Hammond and W. G. Mitchell.

A private kindergarten is presently conducted by Mrs. Helen Labelle at her home on Main Street. It has been in operation for eighteen years.

1960 Elected Officials

SELECTMEN AND BOARD OF HEALTH



Chester S. Holda



Frederick J. Sullivan, Jr.



Earl E. Coleman



John P. Moriarty
Town Bookkeeper



William H. Anderson
Moderator and Town Counsel



Ann C. Landers
Secretary to the Selectmen



Cemetery Commissioners: Standing: Mildred L. Lombard and Thomas A. Wallace, seated: Robert W. Curtis.



Board of Public Welfare: L. to R., Mary H. Cantwell, Jean H. Windholz, Annie E. Sullivan.



1289010

School Committee: L. to R. Standing: David W. Grieve, John M. Griswold. Seated: Albert W. Lewing, William H. Daly, Jr., James M. Duggan.



Recreation Committee: L. to R., Walter A. Swift, Theodore J. Galas, Robert W. Curtis.



Water Commissioners: L. to R., John L. Murphy, James F. McConchie, Charles H. F. Osborn and Superintendent, Herman Winter.



Henry C. Sanderson, Town Treasurer and Town Clerk, with his secretary Lois Tirrell.



Dorothy Hanic, Assistant Assessor, delivering a warrant to Tax Collector, Milton W. Makepeace.



Constables: Left to right, Nisio F. Uliana, Robert E. Chaffee, Rufus N. Aldrich, Michael DeFoe, Evert W. Gustafson. Missing from picture is Harold Dominick.



Board of Assessors: L. to R., Raymond Orcutt, William Partelo and Melvin Gilbert.



Auditors: L to R., John L. Murphy, Richard N. Billodeau, William Meacham.

Road Department

It is hard to realize that Monson was once forested hills with the river valley winding between the tree trunks and roots. Therefore, we must visualize the first "trodden paths" made by the tawny savages as they walked silently in Indian file through these forests. Next came the white man seeking wild game, so these paths were worn bare by his heavy hobnailed boots. White settlers found this well-watered area good for raising cattle, the best of all path makers, as they sought pasture or drinking place. Then the bridle-path for horses, perhaps with blazed trees as guideposts, widened to uneven cart-ways. As the white settlers built their homes, we like to think that some paths were formed by frequent neighborly visits, or a man seeking a wife many miles away. Many of our country roads today still follow the lines of the old foot paths and cattle tracks.

The most famous of all these paths was the Bay Path which was in existence in 1657. The portion which went from Brookfield to

Springfield passed along the Quaboag River and the "Chicuppee" River on the Monson side. Holland wrote of the Bay Path in his novel of that title:

"It was marked by trees a portion of the distance and by slight clearings of brush and thicket for the remainder. No stream was bridged, no hill graded and no marsh drained. The path led through the woods which bore the mark of centuries, over barren hills which had been licked by Indian hounds of fire, and along the banks of streams."

The course of the Bay Path is indicated on the early map by the symbols - x - x - x. Number 1 is the point on Silver Street which crosses the north part of the present Egan farm — the junction of the County Road with the Bay Path. From there the path led around the north end of Wilbraham Mountain to Twelve Mile Brook, which it crossed near the head of a small pond. From the brook the course was easterly a distance of about a half a mile, then along the present Hovey Road. The path then went through a lot owned in 1802 by David Sheare, then

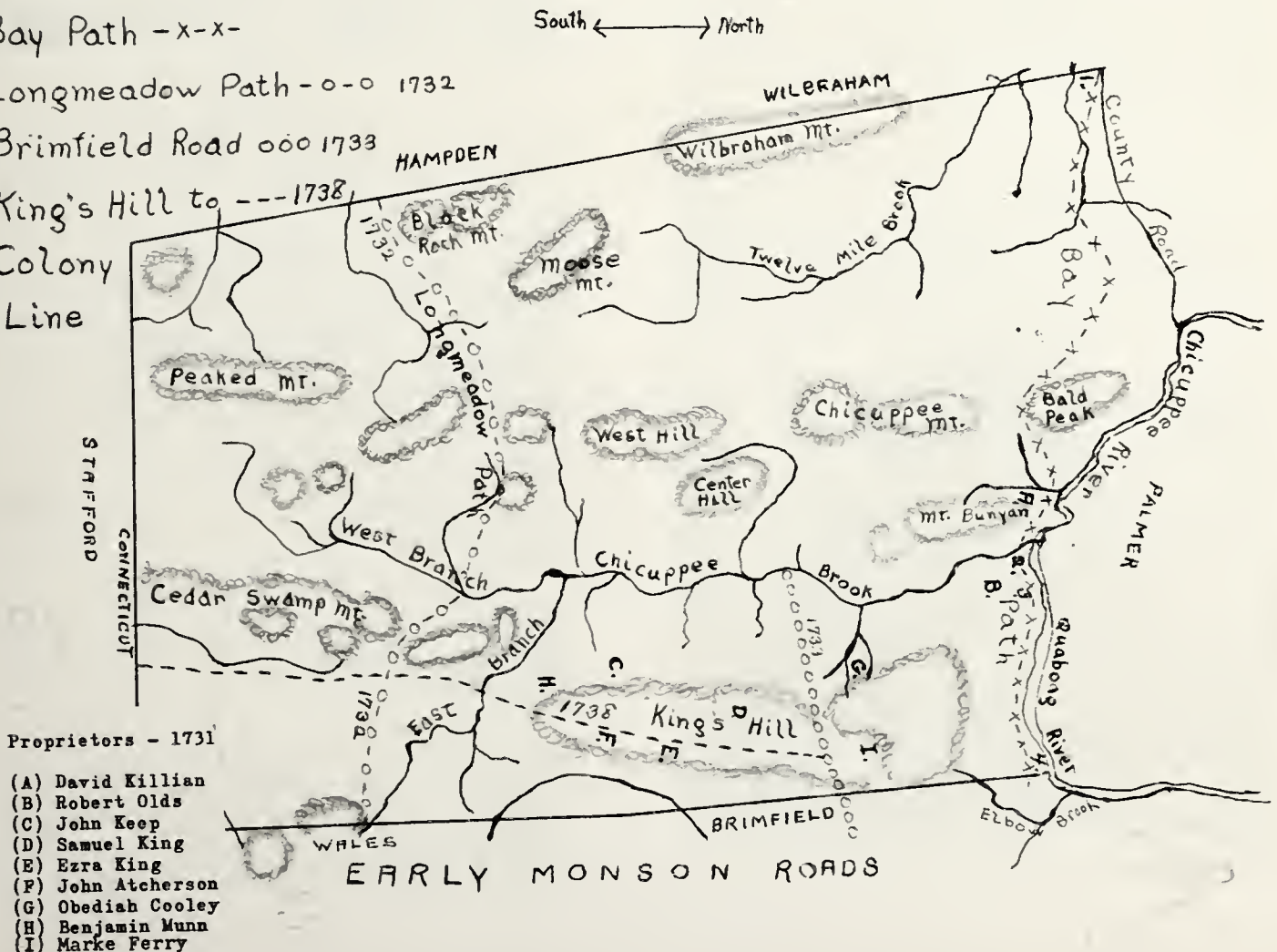
Bay Path - x - x -

Longmeadow Path - o - o - 1732

Brimfield Road o o o 1733

King's Hill to --- 1738

Colony
Line



ran northeasterly until nearly halfway across the Old's lot, there becoming indential with the present Bald Peak Road, then turned southeasterly making a curve around a rocky place. Thence it went across the Fellows' two hundred acre tract of land "bounded northerly by Chicopee or Quabaug River and on the south by the course of the Bay Path." It then followed a portion of the highway leading through Monson State Hospital grounds and "ran on hard land by the meadow border to the only place of crossing the Chicopee Brook on firm ground."

Fellows located his tavern on a beautiful site opposite this ford, marked number 2 on the map. Number 3 indicates an angle in the north line of Robert Old's home lot (the Foley Farm). It turned up Sand Hill past Birchcroft, thence followed the course of Fenton Road. Point number 4 is about 70 rods from a bend of the Quabaug River, opposite the site of the old Electric Power plant. Upon this sandy knoll, about 400 feet above sea level, the Nipmuck Indians had a place for the storage of corn, grown upon the nearby excellent farm land. Their pestle for grinding and other stone implements have been found in excavating this hill. Without change of direction the path continued across the sandy plain and followed Elbow Brook to the foot of West Waddaquoduck Hill in Brimfield. Chase, in his book, *The Bay Path and Along the Way*, gives interesting findings from his search of the path.

Next came the Longmeadow Path, marked on the map - o - o - o - o. It was one of the earliest roads or trails in the south part of the village. On an early Brimfield map it is indicated as being in existence in 1732. It went from Longmeadow through



Front View of Mystery

South Wilbraham (now Hampden) and by a round-about route, avoiding river crossings and skirting mountains, into Monson via Butler Road. It turned across the fields by the Bradway Brothers farm (now owned by Arthur Berube) following along the base of Round-Top. Along this section of the route are still to be found two loosely-piled heaps of stone resembling fireplaces, believed by many to be of Indian origin. The first of these stone formations is located near the Berube house, while the second one is on the west side of Round-Top near May Hill Road.



Rear View of Mystery

Following approximately the present Hampden Road to the top of the hill above Ralph Nothe's home, it swung east coming out at Calkins Corner — still a favorite deer lane. The path then followed the Robbins Road, crossing the Stafford Road onto Cedar Swamp Road. Here we find the location of an early Inn, the Four Stacks (it has four chimneys), now owned by Mrs. John Carew. Thence the path ran by way of the Blanchard Road up over the old abandoned Tupper Hill Road into South Brimfield (now Wales) to meet the Hartford-Worcester (17-31) path. The old Postal Line (Telephone and Telegraph route) followed almost this same course.

The front page of the Tuesday, October 29, 1805, issue of *The Federal Spy* contains this interesting item, proving that history repeats itself:

"The members of the First Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation are hereby notified to meet at the Dwelling-house of Mr. Asa Bates, innholder in Palmer, on Wednesday the Twenty-third day of October next, at 10 o'clock, A.M. for the following purposes viz: — To elect the Officers of the Corpor-

ation for the ensuing year: — To receive and act on such Report or Reports as may then and there be submitted by the Directors or any Agent or Agents heretofore appointed: — To consider and adopt such Measures as may be advisable relative to the Repair and Support of any part of said Road in future: — To determine whether the Corporation will purchase a small Tract of Land adjoining a part of the Road in the town of Wilbraham: — To settle and allow such claims for Services, and to transact all such Matters concerning the Interests of the Corporation, as may then and there be thought expedient."

Dwight Foster	President
Joseph Field	and
Pitt Bliss	Directors

October 1, 1805

The first Massachusetts Turnpike Corporation was approved by Governor Samuel Adams, June 11, 1796. It was not until 1798 that the road was extended from Palmer along the northern line of Monson beside the bank of the Chicopee River (now Route 20) to Wilbraham.

The Town meeting held May 15, 1792, "Voted to choose an Agent to answer for and defend the town against a presentment made by the Grand inquest of the County for not keeping the Highway in good repair between Wilbraham and Palmer on Monson line." Again at the December, 1793, Town meeting it was "voted to give Amis Minor, Seventeen Dollars a year for five years, he giving Bonds to Repare and to keep in Good Repare the part of the County Road that Belongs to Monson, for five years and to leve the Same Road in good Repare at the five years end." About five years later, February 5, 1798, it was "voted that the Memorial to the General Court for a Turnpike to be Established between Wilbraham and Monson to be signed by the Selectmen of Monson." Abner Brown, Abel Goodell and Gad Colton were serving as selectmen at that time. In 1799 the toll road was widened from three to four rods.

The first corporation included several men from this vicinity including Levi Pease, an ancestor of the Monson Pease family. History says that Captain Levi Pease and his boyhood friend, Colonel Reuben Sikes, pushed the enterprise vigorously so that stages were running regular schedules over this toll road by November, 1797. The stages started in Boston, traveled over the rough, unpaved road from Warren through Palmer Center, along the Monson line to Wilbraham and made connections at Springfield for other points. At first a single stage coach made three round trips per week, leaving

Boston every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at noon, covering the distance in forty-eight hours.



Old Toll Gate

No record has been found of the location of the toll gates which were placed about every ten miles. Charges were made as follows:

For a two-horse coach or four-wheeled carriage	25¢
A cart drawn by two oxen	10¢
A curricule	09¢
Horses and driven livestock	03¢
Sheep and swine by the dozen	03¢

Later the tolls were increased to fifteen cents for one-horse curricles, chaises, etc. Certain persons were exempt from paying tolls. They included any person who passed with horse and carriage to or from public worship; or, with his horse or team to or from any mill; or, with his horse, team or cattle to or from any ordinary labor on his farm; or, on the common or ordinary business of family concerns within the same towns; or, any person passing on military duty.

This toll road was laid along the route of an earlier road or path, for excerpts from George Washington's diary indicate that he twice journeyed this route touching the northwestern tip of Monson. General Washington, when on his way to take command of the American Army, accompanied by General Lee and members of his staff, made this entry in his diary: Friday, June 30, 1775. At Springfield, Mass.; met a committee from the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, Dr. Benjamin Church and Moses Gill, who had provided escorts for the remainder of the journey through Brookfield, Worcester and Malborough to Watertown."

Tradition, apparently well attested, tells us that General Washington and his party

halted under the shade of a stately elm to rest. (This tree known as the Washington Elm stands on the south side of the Old County Road on the Monson section of Route 20.) As it was about noon they might have gone across the way to Captain Grave's tavern for refreshment.

Washington made a second visit to this area in 1789 and, again tradition tells us that he addressed the people from a platform erected under the same stately elm.

The record of his second visit is recorded by George Washington in his diary as follows: "Tuesday, October 22, 1789. Set out at 7 o'clock from Springfield, and for the first 8 miles rid over an almost uninhabited Pine plain; much mixed with sand. Then a little before the road descends to Chicopee river it is hilly, rocky and steep, and continues so for several miles; the country being stony and barren, with a mixture of Pine and Oak till we came to Palmer."

Everett, in his *Mount Vernon Paper*, says: "Washington left New York Oct. 15, 1789, in a chariot drawn by four horses, accompanied by several of his State officers and his own servants. He passed through New Haven, Hartford, and reached Springfield at 4 o'clock on the 21st October; where he inspected the stores kept at the Arsenal, and put up at Parsons' tavern. He left Springfield Thursday morning, 22nd, at 7 o'clock, and arrived at Palmer, stopping at the Old Scott tavern, where he breakfasted. He then went east, reaching Brookfield at noon, and dined at Hitchcock's tavern."



WASHINGTON ELM

Washington, this time, came as the adored President and worshiped hero, so no

doubt our ancestors would have travelled a great distance to see and hail him on the journey. Dr. O. P. Allen, the Palmer Historian of the 1890's, had a monument erected near the tree, to keep in the minds of his country men these historic events. W. N. Flynt Granite Co. furnished the polished granite slab, which was dedicated May 1, 1906, with appropriate exercises.

At the Town meeting of September 29, 1800, it was "voted to choose three as a Committee to consult and see what method is best to be taken by this Town Respecting a Turnpike Road threw this Town as has been Proposed — Mr. William Norcross, Mr. Noah Sabin and Mr. Jesse Stebbins was the Committee."

By an act of the Legislature on February 29, 1804, the Petersham-Monson Turnpike Corporation was authorized to build a road from a point on the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike at Athol, south to Petersham and to connect with the Connecticut Turnpike in Stafford.

At the Town meeting held May, 1806, it was "voted that the Town relinquish their rite to the Bridge over Chickopee River between Monson and Palmer to the Turnpike Corporation — provided the said Corporation can agree with the Town of Palmer for their half of said Bridge."

It would seem probable that this toll road followed the present Route 32 across Fay's Bridge, through the Main Street, and on to the Stafford line where it connected with the Connecticut Turnpike. Several deeds have been found mentioning the Turnpike Road as a boundary, such as the following quote from the deed given by Azel Uttley to Dr. Alfred Ely in 1809: "30 rods north of Landlord Amos Norcross—boundary northwest corner of Amos Norcross, north from said Norcross house on east side of Turnpike Road—12 rods on Pike thence east twenty-eight rods—."

The Petersham-Monson Turnpike Corporation was in existence about fifteen years, for the road was accepted as a county way in 1819. Many deeds after this date included the phrase "on the road from the Meeting House to Stafford."

King's Handbook of Springfield mentions a "Springfield and Providence line opened in 1823 which was maintained for a long period. The route was laid out first to North Wilbraham, then to Monson and from there by a circuitous way to Brimfield." Much further research would be

needed to trace this exact route. Perhaps it came through Silver Street to Colton Hollow, passing by Colton's Tavern, then down the steep hill (now abandoned) which crossed the Quarry Road near the Anderson home, down Thompson Street to Chestnut Street and then over East Hill to Brimfield.

Through these early years the turnpikes were everywhere and the taxation of transport was universal. This taxation was not felt to be a grievance, however, as these turnpike roads greatly facilitated access to markets and increased the value of the real estate on every route through which they passed.

TOWN ROADS

Roads were always of great concern, for Brimfield's first town meeting held March 16, 1731, voted: "James Tompson, Joseph Frost, Samuel Allen and Nathan Colyons were to be surveyors for highways." At the November 9, 1731, meeting it was "voted that all the publick Rodes to be four Rods wide and soe to be recorded. That all ye private Rodes be allowed not to exceed two Rods wide Except it be at some particular had place where they may happen to be a Rock or the like in the way that may possibly stop ye passage."

Town meeting March 27, 1732 — "Voted that where the Roads was Eight Rods wide and lotts Butted and Bounded upon them they shall remain Eight Rods Wide and Where they were Six Rods Wide, or four Rods Wide — soe to be and continue." At that same meeting it was "voted and established Bridge on Chickuppee Brook by Robert Olds house."

In 1738 ten men laid out the first important town road which ran from Kings Hill to Stafford, and is indicated on the map by - - - - -. Along this road, Freeborn Moulton operated a store about 1750 (?) which was possibly located in the ell part of the house now owned by Francis Hickey. Monson Town records mention this road often, and several others are laid out branching from it. One such is mentioned on March 19, 1782, as follows: "A highway laid out beginning at a stake and heap of stones which is Josiah Trasks southeast corner bounds on the road leading from Kings Hill to Stafford from thence westerly — to a heap of stones in John Hales east line."

Nearly every town meeting warrant contains plans of a road to be laid out—most of them to be two rods wide. These early

roads were rough, sandy, muddy, or rocky; whatever the soil condition might be where the road "grew"!

Corduroy roads were laid through the swampy places to make them passable for carriages and stage coaches. These roads were constructed of logs cut in ten to twelve foot lengths, and laid touching each other to form a solid surface. Saplings and small logs were used to fill the marshy places and chuckholes. Occasionally whole roads were laid in this fashion. Traces of the corduroy road laid from State line to Moulton Hill still remain — a veritable antique.

Town records indicate that seventy-three roads were laid out, accepted, and built during the first forty years. During these early years, the town was divided into districts. The County and Town tax list of 1834 lists thirteen such districts. The

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid	Eaton Squier for plank for Fay bridge	30 22
	Dwight King cash paid labor on bridge	10 25
	Ephriam B Keep for railing	22 75
	Alanson Pease & Son repairing bridge Dist No 4	7 00
	H H Beekwith " " " 6	6 67
	A D Briggs & Co for Iron Bridge	1300 00
	Eaton Squier work on road Dist No 9	12 00
	R S Munn Committee on roads	2 00
	Albert Norcross for building abutments for bridge	92 00
	C H Bradway work on roads in Dist No 12	10 00
	Omar Pease work on roads Dist No 4	11 00
	A V Blanchard & Co for repairing bridge	47 50
	Dwight King expenses on roads	1 50
	Levi Peck work on roads	3 00
	Austin Fuller services on roads	20 78
	Dwight King " "	22 75
	Calvin S Pease " "	7 12
	Wm N Flynt for work on road	113 00
	Wm N Flynt covering bridge near Risleys shop	80 00
	H C Stimson work on road in Dist No 13	13 16
Due	For land damage and building road } near E E Towne s store	275 00
		2087 70
Less	Due from town of Palmer say	20 00
	Due from the several districts say	50 00
		70 00
	Actual cost the past year	\$2017 70

1868 Report of Highway Dept.

120 miles of road were maintained

Selectmen annually appointed a surveyor for each district, to be responsible for the care of the roads within his district. The work of maintaining the roads consisted of scraping them to fill the ruts following the spring mud time, repairing washouts and bridges, and surfacing with gravel.

Comparatively little money was spent

by these surveyors. On March, 1794, it was "Voted one hundred sixty pounds to Repare Highways and to allow three Shillings per day from the first of April to the first of October and two Shillings per day to the End of the year and team work in proportion."

1958 Report of Highway Dept.

COST OF MAINTAINING ROADS — 1958

Highways and Bridges	\$14,999.66
Snow and Ice Removal	30,089.42
Sidewalks	159.34
Chapter 81	36,774.72
Chapter 90 Construction, 1955 & 1956 accounts	11,516.57
Chapter 90 Construction, 1957 account	469.60
Chapter 90 Construction, 1958 account	24,799.88
Chapter 90 Maintenance	1,499.17
Purchase of Bituminous Material	4,000.00
Road Machinery Fund	11,233.24
Chapter 718 — Maxwell Road	4,174.68
Stream Clearance — Chicopee Brook	1,997.90
Stream Clearance — Mill Street Brook	1,200.00
Purchase of Sand Spreader	1,660.00
Purchase of Pick-up Truck	1,562.00
Total Expenditures	\$146,136.18
Reimbursement from the State	\$19,274.33
Reimbursement from the County	9,401.24
Road Machinery Earnings	12,538.20
Total Reimbursements	\$41,213.77
Cost to the Town	\$104,922.41



Spring 1932

The change from district surveyors to a Road Superintendent was made in 1920 when the Legislature, acting under Chapter 155, voted \$50 per mile toward maintenance of town roads which had the approval of the State Department of Public Works. In 1922 this was revised and became known as Chapter 81. The state raised its contribution to \$75, the town contributing \$100 per mile.

In 1926 the state increased its aid to \$100 per mile. By 1934, the payment was \$150 per mile, the town appropriating \$75 per mile. By act of 1946, the Massachusetts towns received \$225 per mile. In 1949 the state's share was increased to \$250 and in



Early Highway Truck

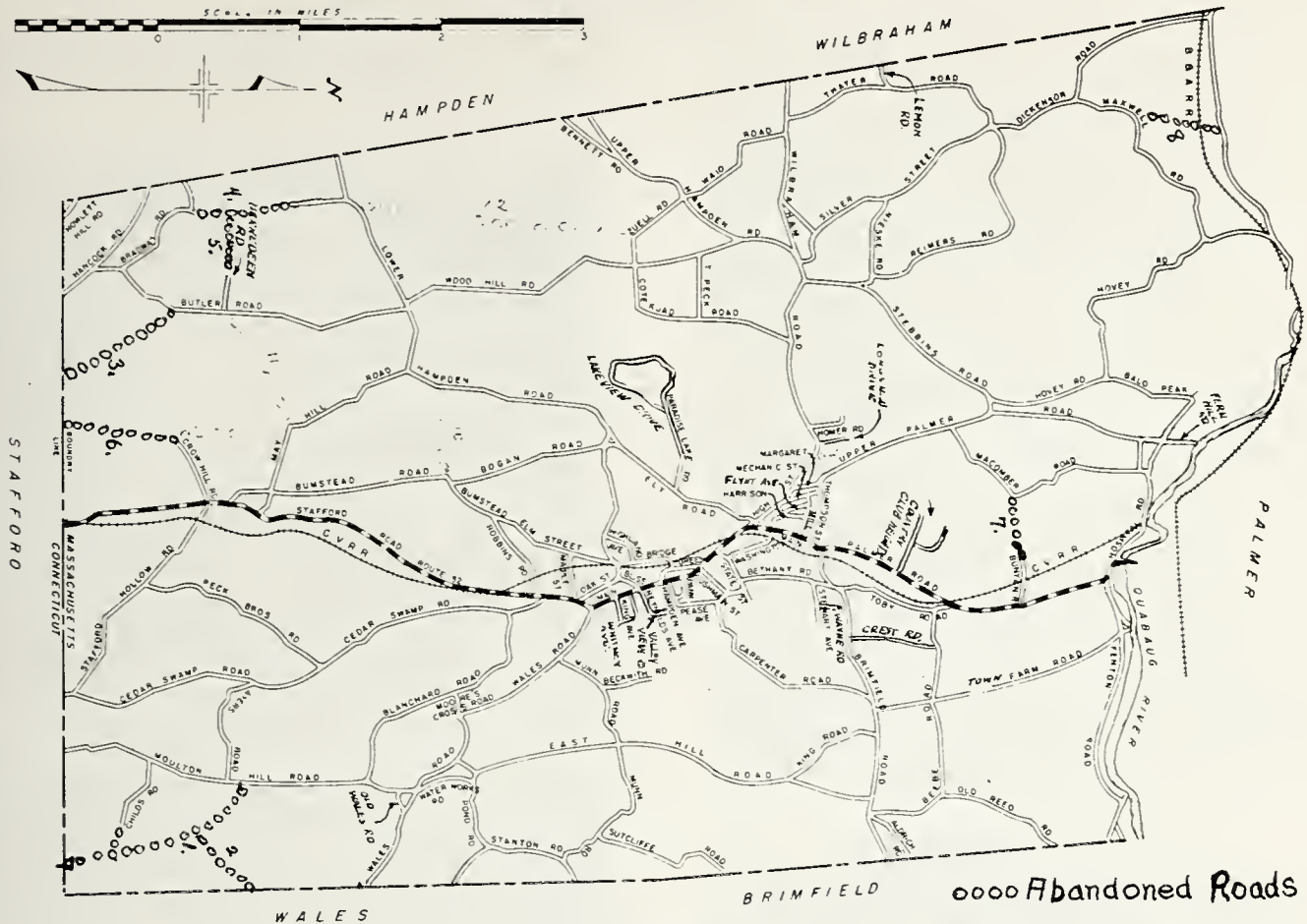
1950 it was again increased to \$275 per mile. The money appropriated by the state for this purpose is derived from the tax on gasoline. The increase in number of automobiles and the demands of the taxpayers who use the roads, has resulted in a continual rise in the cost of maintaining our highways.

In 1924, Chapter 90 became effective. Under this new Chapter, the state, county, and town shared the cost of rebuilding roads. At the start the state appropriation was \$1000; the county, \$500; and the town \$500.

Hard-surfaced roads were unknown in Monson until after 1900 when the state took control of the road from one-tenth of a mile north of Chestnut Street (state marker) to the railroad crossing at North Monson. This was our first water-bound macadam road. The first tar road was from Harrison Avenue to the foot of Academy Hill, hardened in 1916. The state constructed Route 32 from King Avenue to the Stafford line in 1926 and from North Main Street to Fay's Bridge in 1927.

There are several abandoned roads which are shown on the 1960 road map by 0 0 0 0. These are well-known by the hunters, woodsmen, and "Old Timers".

One abandoned road deserves special mention. Researchers have been puzzled when they read deeds of land stating—"on the Meeting House Road," yet they knew the property was situated in the western part of the town far from the Main Street Meeting



1960 Road Map

House. Records show that many people came from Stafford to attend services at the Baptist Meeting House in Colton Hollow. The road referred to in these deeds went from this Meeting House up Zuell Road, across Meacham Meadows (12), crossing the Hampden Road, continuing past the William Newland place, skirting the moun-



1960 Highway Department

1960 Highway Department: Left to right: Joseph Merceri, Albert Kane, Harold Anderson, Paul Costa, Carl Scott, Frederick Sullivan, James Toner, Walter Nothe, ~~Robert Welch~~.



Watering Cart

Martin Nelson driving Eugene Foskit's street watering cart. Both a morning and afternoon trip over the dirt-packed, down-town streets was made to "lay the dust."

tain, coming onto the Herredeem Road and thence to the Butler Road. From here it turned onto the old Longmeadow Path to May Hill Road, then followed the now abandoned road past Peaked Mountain, the Bradway Pond — which it crossed over the dam — and then continued south across the

State (Colony) line.

At present there are one hundred six different streets and roads totaling 105.39 miles, truly a tremendous task to keep in repair. Frederick J. Sullivan, Jr., the present Highway Surveyor, has held this position since 1949. He is ably assisted by Paul Costa, Albert Kane, Sr., Albert Kane, Jr., Carl Scott, James Toner, Robert Welch, Harold Anderson, Walter Nothe, Joseph Merceri, and Raymond Corish. The motorized equipment of the Highway Department consists of four dump trucks, a Diesel grader, a pick-up truck, and plows and sand spreaders for winter use.

Cemeteries

On March 19, 1755, a petition was presented by the settlers of the western part of the town, humbly showing, "Whereas we living a great Way from town, and soe from ye Present Burying-place, by reason of the



ELIZABETH SIKES MARKER

Badness and length of ye way cannot bury our Dead with that Convenience and Order which such solemnities require, it being no matter to the body where it lies when Dead. Therefore we request the town would be pleased to grant us a burying-place among Ourselves, that we may bury our Dead out of sight with less Difficulty and Trouble." The lot granted was not laid out until 1760. This was the first cemetery according to *Jason's History of Brimfield* written in 1856. The Book of Surveys shows plot 74 was set aside for a cemetery. This plot was located on the West side of the Town of Brimfield below King's Hill. This land was accepted by the Town of Monson May 13, 1762, as a Town Cemetery. It consists of two acres of land on Bethany Road beside Bethany Cemetery. Old histories say, "the

first man buried therein was Capt. David Hitchcock." The marker is missing locating the exact spot of his burial. One monu-



HER SPIRIT ARISETH

ment which still stands is inscribed, "Mrs. Elizabeth, ye wife of Francis Sikes, died 1774." There are parts of two other slabs which cannot be deciphered. In the memory of some of the older citizens, there once were several rows of wooden slabs which apparently marked the burial places of early



settlers, or as many like to believe, they may have been the graves of Indians. The plot was allowed to grow up to brush, and was in disuse, until the present superintendent found the old records and the Cemetery Commissioners ordered its restoration.

Early town records of cemeteries located on East Hill, Moulton Hill, State Line, Butler and Colton Hollow districts are not available, but in the *History of Connecticut Valley* written in 1879 mention is made as to the age of the plots.

The one on East Hill or Brimfield Road is located where the center of the town was first laid out. It is called the Grout Cemetery, for the land originally belonged to Dr.



HILLSIDE CEMETERY ARCH



MOULTON LOG MARKER



LEWIS STUMP TREE

Joseph Grout who lived in the house across the way. It was laid out by vote of the town February 4, 1839, and contains 40 square rods of land. There are six burials all within a short time, in 1838 and 1839, making us wonder if there was an epidemic at that time?

The first date recorded on the markers was that of Lusina Walker who died in 1836, daughter of Anson and Harriet Walker.

Moulton Hill Cemetery was first used as a burying ground about 1779, but was not declared a public cemetery until April 4, 1803, when the town voted it as such. Some of the old markers in Moulton Hill Cemetery are weather-worn field stones with no inscriptions.



CEMETERY BRIDGE

A man who drove the town hearse recollects that two such stones mark the graves of unknown itinerants found dead in the 'lock up'. The oldest burials recorded are those of Rebekah Walker, wife of Freeborn Moulton, who died in 1802, and Joseph Moulton who died in 1816. A slab was later erected for Capt. Freeborn Moulton who died in 1792, his burial place unknown.

The Cemetery at State Line was called the Gage District Cemetery. It contains an acre of land and was laid out about 1850. In looking through this well-kept spot, one does not wonder at the name for most of the stones bear the name of Gage. The oldest is that of Moses Gage 1837.

Butler district cemetery was presented to the inhabitants of the Town of Monson in 1800 by the Butler family for "As long as



BURDICK ANVIL

timbers grow and waters run." Ezra Mixture, who served in the Revolutionary War was the first person buried there, according to existing records.

The Colton Hollow burial ground is located on Bennett Road. It was called the Day burying ground; and contains about a quarter of an acre of land. The stones tell of two people dying the same day in the same year. William Snow died July 27, 1812, aged 65. "He lived beloved and died lamented." Jerusha Pease, wife of Uriel Lanphear also died July 27, 1812 age 36 years. Her husband lived to the ripe old age of 97 years.

There is a small cemetery on the east side of Main Street next to the High School. The first interment was that of William

Norcross in 1813. The last burial was Mrs. A. D. Norcross on October 7, 1950. A deed has been located which deeded this plot to the inhabitants of the first Parish in Monson in 1846.

On the west side of North Main Street is the oldest large public cemetery, laid out in 1760. The first burial was Mrs. Nathaniel Sikes in 1777. This burial ground contains the resting places of many Revolutionary soldiers. One inscribed, "Capt. Chester Con-



JAPANESE OBELISKS

verse who was suddenly kild by being thrown from a waggon Oct. 24, 1815, aged 61."

"Make every day a ride on the path,
And live each day as if it were the last."



CEMETERY FALLS

Another interesting story gleaned from the old markers is that of Nicholas Vlasopolos, a Greek. Born in the Island of Ithaca, January 1806, died in Monson, March 7, 1827. On the back of the red sandstone, pointed shaft is the following explanation. "He came to America June 1826 to obtain an education under the Patronage of the A.B.C. for Foreign Missions." Dr. Frederick W. Ellis left the town a sum of money, the interest to be used to care for this old plot.

The town cemetery now in use, was laid out in 1842. The area belonged to the Addison Thompson Estate. Later additions were laid out 1863, 1874, and 1902, extending from Mill Street to Thompson Street and North Main nearly to Mechanic Street. It contains about ten acres of land. The first interment in this cemetery was that of a child of Dr. Alvin Smith and the second that of Benjamin Fuller in 1842. This cemetery is approached from North Main Street through a beautiful granite arch which was erected and presented to the town by Mrs. Emma Field Page Norcross of Germantown, Pennsylvania in memory of her mother, Mrs. Nancy M. Field.



BETHANY GATE AND CHAPEL

Some of the unusual monuments within this cemetery are the Converse tomb, the Moulton log-depicting the business of the deceased; the Burdick anvil-designed and chiseled by Mr. Burdick, the village blacksmith; the Lewis monument depicting the stump of a tree carved by Justin Grindell, a local stone cutter. There are two identical white obelisks in memory of the two Japanese students, Ashiwara-Shiuhsi, died July 21, 1867, and Takinaske-Kenstomo died September 20, 1873. The Japanese government

sent representatives here a few years ago to investigate the graves. They were so pleased about the care of them, the Japanese government placed a trust fund with the town, to pay for their care.



BETHANY CELTIC CROSS

A portion of the Mill Street retaining wall and the interesting Keystone bridge over the Mill brook, were washed away by the 1955 flood. The West end of the cemetery received considerable damage as well.

The Cemetery Commissioners are Robert Curtis, Thomas Wallace, and Mrs. Mildred Lombard. The Superintendent is Ralph Moulton Sr., who is assisted by Paul Davis and Frank Beckwith. The revenue to pay the running expenses is derived from three sources; income from trust funds which now equal about \$68,066; the charge to lot owners for yearly care and annual town appropriations.

Bethany Cemetery, the property of Saint Patrick's Parish, was dedicated November 1878. This was the oldest portion on the west side of Bethany Road. In 1923, through the generosity of many parishioners and Father O'Keefe's brother, Reverend Father John O'Keefe, the new part on the east side of Bethany Road was purchased. An attractive granite arch was erected, inscribed "Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord," and a statue of 'Our Lord' overlooking the iron

gateway. A beautiful gothic chapel, with the Blessed Virgin Mary within a niche over the doorway, was built; a lovely stone fountain, and an imposing celtic stone cross were also put within this section as memorials to the faithful departed.



PEASE FAMILY CEMETERY

There are two small private family plots within the town. One, the David Bradway lot, is located on the farm now owned by Charles Barber on Moulton Hill. The children had small-pox, a dreaded and feared communicable disease. They had to bury the victims as near their home as possible, hence the little burial ground in the woods where Nature reigns supreme. There are two markers, David Bradway died October 5, 1853, age 80; Jerusha his wife died January 29, 1832, age 53, and an unmarked stone where the children were buried.

High above the sandbank, nearly opposite the Storm home — earlier the Pease place — on the Lower Hampden Road, away back in the woods is the Pease burying ground. One wonders about the reasons for the choice of this secluded spot. Here again Nature had her sway, but through renewed



Ralph Moulton, Sr., Frank Beckwith, Paul Davis

interest on the part of the descendants, it has been restored. Here you will find the old hand carved granite posts connected by iron chains. Truly this is one of God's Little Acres.

We can only end with Hon. Joseph Reynold's words which he spoke at town meeting when it was proposed that a road be laid across the old cemetery at North Main Street:

"Good friend, for Jesus's sake, forbear
'To dig the dust enclosed here.
Blest be the man that spares these stones,
And curst be he that moves my bones."

Police Department

Very little information has been recorded regarding our Police Department. Examination of the earliest records indicates that a constable was included among the elected officials. The notice of the Town Meeting held March 16, 1762, was warned by Constable Jabez Keep. Nicholas Groves was elected in that year to succeed him.

In the year 1768, two constables, Asabel Bush and Simeon Keep, were elected. One was to warn the freeholders on the easterly side of the Chicopee Brook and the other



Herbert Aldrich

warned the freeholders on the westerly side.

The records do not state what other duties they were expected to perform, nor their salary. It would appear their duties did not cover as wide a field as those of our present police force, for among the papers of the Monson Historical Society is a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Thief Detecting Society, dated 1867-8. The object of the society was "To Recover Property Stolen from any MEMBER and to Detect, and bring the Thief or Thieves to Justice." Article Three stated that "any person may become a Life Member by the payment of ONE DOLLAR per year."

The Town Report of 1896-7 tells of the appointment of a Prosecuting Committee consisting of J. H. Thompson, C. C. Keep



Cruiser and Three Officers, Robert Chaffee, Michael Defoe, John Perry.

and H. Squier. Their duties were to bring erring individuals to task for their misdemeanors and to conduct raids on establishments selling liquor. From the number of articles printed in the newspapers about that time, it would appear that the committee was very conscientious in performing its duties.

According to the figures in the Town Reports, the amount paid to constables was so small up until 1907 that none could have been working on a full-time basis. In that year H. D. Osborne received \$349.50 and S. S. Howlett \$490.30 for police service. This may have been the beginning of our first Night Police Officers. Herbert Aldrich was appointed Night Police Officer in 1909 and served faithfully and well for forty-two years, retiring in 1951. He passed away in January 1960.

Robert Chaffee was appointed Night Police Officer to succeed Herbert Aldrich. Money for the town's first police cruiser was appropriated at the March 17, 1958, town meeting. With the addition of Michael

Defoe and John Perry in 1959, the Police Force was increased to three men. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Frederick J. Sullivan, serves as Chief of Police.

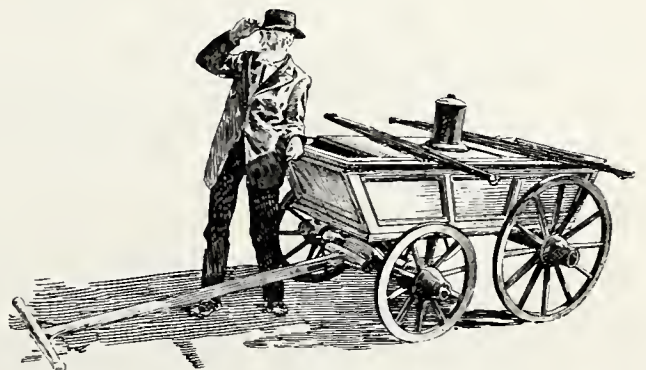
Those elected to the office of Constable in 1960 include: Rufus Aldrich, Robert Chaffee, Michael Defoe, Harold Dominick, Evert Gustafson and Nisio Uliana.

Fire Department

The first piece of fire apparatus brought into Monson to supplement the bucket brigades was a hand-operated, hand-drawn pumper known as the "Old Tub". Nothing appears on the town records concerning such a purchase so it would appear that the expense was borne by private individuals. Timothy Packard is believed to have been one of the owners and the pumper was kept in a shed at the rear of his store. After the acquisition of more modern equipment by the town, the Flynts acquired this pumper for use at the quarry in case of fire. In March, 1897, it was presented to the Veteran Firemen's Association. About 20 years ago the "Old Tub" was given to the New England Historical Society and placed in a museum in Weymouth.

The "Old Tub" is thought to have been built in Belchertown and was in use here prior to 1833.

It was not until March 1887 that the town voted to form a Fire Department with



Early Fire Fighter

the Selectmen to appoint three engineers. The following month Alvin A. Gage was named Chief and Rufus P. Cushman and Frederick Fay, engineers. In June, 1887, twenty-six men were appointed to form Chemical Companies No. 1 and 2. Fifteen men were appointed in August to form Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.

Each company was increased to fifteen men in 1889. Alarms for fires were to be six strokes on the church bells if south of Central Block and four strokes if to the north.

Three Gleason and Bailey hose carts were purchased in 1895. By this time the fire department consisted of three Hose Companies, two Chemical Companies, and a Hook and Ladder Company composed of eight men in each company. There were two fire stations, one at the foot of Fountain Street and the other at the present location on Main Street. The alarm system was

chemical tanks, hose and ladders was added. Four years later the fire alarm system was remodeled by the Gamewell Company and a new compressor, electrically driven, was installed.

The first Maxim truck, a combination 500 gallon pumper and hose carrier was delivered November 13, 1933. It is still in service having been remodeled by members of the department for use in forest fire fighting particularly, although still available for any duty. In 1934 an addition was built on the rear of the station and the heating system remodeled.



The Fire Department poses with an early piece of equipment. Back row, left to right: Fernand Strong, John Cantwell, William Brennan, John McQuade, Nick Hughes, Ed Donovan, Gene Howlett, George Adams, John Parker, Chas. Lyons, Chas. Rood. Front Row: N. Hanley, T. Callahan, Herbert Shaw, Chas. Darling, Jerry Lyons, C. Miller, John Grady, Chas. Bradway.

changed to three strokes on the bells if north of Academy Bridge, four strokes if between Academy and Reynolds Bridges and five strokes if to the south.

The alarm system installed by LeBaron and Johnson was accepted October, 1904. Harry Oldfield sounded the first alarm for a chimney fire at Cushman Hall. The second alarm was sounded on February 7, 1905, when the A. D. Ellis house on Green Street burned.

The department was motorized in 1921 with the purchase of a Clydesdale truck equipped with two chemical tanks and carrying hydrant hose and ladders. The personnel was reduced to the Engineers and eighteen men. All the old apparatus was disposed of and the north station abandoned.

In 1926 a Ford truck equipped with

The hurricane in 1938 wrecked the alarm system. The members of the department gave freely of their time and effort in the work of rebuilding the entire system. A Diamond T truck equipped with Buffalo apparatus was added in 1940. A Chevrolet truck especially equipped for forest fire fighting was added to the fleet in 1948, an addition having been built on the north side of the station to make room for it. A Chevrolet panel truck, especially equipped for any emergency, was added in 1950. This truck, which has proved to be of great value, was bought with funds raised by the department personnel and presented to the town.

In 1951, the trucks, the Chief's car and the fire station were equipped with two-way radios, a valuable time-saver in case of emergency.



FIRE-FIGHTING APPARATUS

Several members of the fire department personnel shown with equipment. From left, Harry Dewey, Myron Pease, Rufus Aldrich, Roy LeGrand, Leo Robichaud and Norman Brown.

The members of the fire department rendered a great service to townspeople during the 1955 flood, assisting wherever needed. Many of the men remained on duty for 36 to 48 hours without sleep.

The Monson Rotary Club presented an excellently outfitted ambulance to the town in 1959. This was housed at the fire station and operated by the firemen who are trained

in first aid work and are on call twenty-four hours a day.

In 1957 another addition was built on the rear of the station, a new heating system installed, and the building painted inside and out. The labor on the inside work was donated by the department members, who also installed a hot water heater and shower. The second Maxim truck was delivered on September 25, 1957.



MONSON FIRE DEPARTMENT — 1960

Standing L to R: Frank Magrone, Jr., Daniel Kibbe, Edward Manley, David Dewey, Raymond Manley, John Corish, Jr., Frederick Anderson, Norman Brown, Sherwood Corish, Walter Kenerson, Norman Arventos, Rufus Aldrich, Lincoln White, Harry Dewey, Robert Putek, Floyd Davenport, Andrew Piwcio, Alfred Gola, Roswell Reed, Roy LeGrand, Robert DeMaio, Myron Pease. Seated: Charles Medicke, Chester Pease, Elmer Harris, William Birmingham, James Dunn, Lloyd Partelo, Gordon Gould, Evert Gustafson, Lawrence Meacham, Leo Robichaud, Charles Jameson.

In 1960 the fire department was authorized to trade-in the 1948 Packard Ambulance toward the purchase of a 1954 Cadillac ambulance which was delivered in June.

At the present time the Fire Department consists of 35 men; four trucks fully equipped with the most modern apparatus, and capable of carrying with them more than 1000 gallons of water; an emergency truck and an ambulance; all ready and willing to respond to any emergency at a moment's notice. Rescuing cats from trees, pulling cows out of wells, searching for lost children, and assisting neighboring towns—who in turn help Monson—are some of the calls to which Monson firemen have responded.

The members of the department have, at various times, bought and given to the town an electric generator to furnish emergency light, a portable two-way radio, and additional equipment for the emergency truck, as well as donating many spare hours to make needed repairs on equipment.

A FEW OF MONSON'S LARGER FIRES

- August 14, 1893—Monson Woolen Company, Palmer Road.
- November 11, 1893 — Central Block, just south of Main Street Cemetery
- April 10, 1895—Day Block and Green's Hall, nearly opposite Soldier's Monument
- February 7, 1905—A. D. Ellis house, Green Street
- June 28, 1912—Heimann and Lichten Hat Shop, Corner Main and State Streets
- January 13, 1914—Flynt's Store, east side of Main Street nearly opposite Fountain Street
- April 16, 1928—Anderson's Block, 128 Main Street
- August 6, 1928 — Saint Patrick's Church, Green Street
- August 8, 1928—McCray's Barn, Cushman Street
- November 2, 1939 McCray's Barn Cushman Street
- January 25, 1940—Maguire Building (formerly the Blacksmith Shop) opposite Memorial Hall
- March 12, 1945—Thorin Block, same site as the old Central Block
- February 24, 1953—Monson Academy, Main Street

FIRE CHIEFS

April 1887	Alvin A. Gage
May 1889	Arthur D. Norcross
June 1892	David B. Needham
April 1905	Robert J. Murphy
May 1907	Frank J. Entwistle
May 1909	David B. Needham
May 1914	Alfred B. Norcross
May 1919	Nelson A. Bugbee
May 1921	Robert K. Squier
May 1924	Albert P. Stewart
May 1925	John T. Murray
May 1937	Myron H. Pease
May 1939	Chester A. Comee
May 1947	Lloyd E. Partelo

Water Department

Because of Monson's location along both sides of the Chicopee Brook, water for early industrial plants was available in sufficient quantities. Water for domestic use was obtained from individual wells and springs on the hills both east and west of the village. Private systems were developed to supply many homes as time went on. Among them were the Flynt system at the north end of town; the Norcross, Munn and Fuller systems in the center; and the Reynolds system at the south end.

As the town grew and the municipal system came into being and expanded, these systems gradually went out of use, the hurri-



Monson Well

cane and high water of September 1938 having a great deal to do with this. Yet even now a few homes still have a connection to both sources of supply.

In 1893 and 1894 plans were made for developing a water supply for the town and an act was obtained from the Legislature allowing the town to build such a system and to issue bonds in the sum of \$65,000 to finance the same. With the election of A. D. Norcross, E. F. Morris and R. M. Reynolds as the first Water Commissioners in March of 1894, nine test wells, two and one-half inches in diameter, were driven on land owned by Charles Callahan, east of Conant Pond. A good supply of water was located which was found by the State Board of Health to be remarkably pure.



Rustic Watering Trough on Wales Road

The area of the watershed in which these wells were driven is about six and one-half square miles and is located southeast of the center of the town at an elevation of 322 feet above Main Street or 699.3 feet above sea level, sufficient to give excellent pressure.

A circular well, seventy-two feet in diameter and twenty-three feet deep below ground level, was constructed. The entire structure rests on natural material, which is sand and gravel, and has a capacity of 675,000 gallons—sufficient to supply ten good fire streams at two hundred-fifty gallons per minute each for four and one-half hours. The water running into the well as soon as the level began to fall, would much more than supply the demand for domestic consumption during this time.

The well was covered with a roof of corrugated iron which has since had to be replaced by a roof of transit. This well is the largest of its kind in this country, though there is one larger located in Ger-

many. Due to its location, it supplies water at a static pressure in the center of the town, varying from 140 pounds to 150 pounds, dropping to 50 to 60 pounds at the highest elevations above the quarry and on Crest Road to the east of the town.

Arthur H. Makepeace was appointed Superintendent of the Water Department in 1916 to succeed J. S. Nelligan. He served for thirty years, retiring in 1946. A bicycle was provided for use of the superintendent in reading meters, and in a weekly inspection trip to the town reservoir. The first truck for the Water Department was a Model T beach wagon purchased from R. K. Squier in 1918 at a cost of \$455.

In 1926 to meet the increased demand for water, a survey and tests were made and as a result a rectangular well, 59.5 feet by 18.3 feet, was built about 650 feet southeast of the circular well and connected to the same by a ten-inch pipe. The capacity of the well is 300,000 gallons. In addition to these two wells a valve connection at Conant's Pond, a short distance below, allows the water from the pond to be turned into the main in case of an emergency. The worth of this was proven during the 1938 hurricane when an eight-inch line at the Cushman Street Bridge broke and the well emptied. In 1950 an additional supply of water was obtained by installing a gravel-packed well on land purchased from Alfred Borgeson on Bethany Road. This well, fifty-seven feet deep, will safely supply three hundred gallons per minute, or 432,000 gal-



Conant's Dam, constructed to impound water for use in an emergency. The Conant Mill property was purchased by the Water Department in 1913 and the old dam rebuilt to a height six inches above the original. A weakness developed when the pool started to fill, resulting in the entire spillway giving way on October 10, 1913. It was not rebuilt until 1921.

lons per day, and in an emergency will supply in excess of 500,000 per day. The town is now assured of an adequate supply for years to come, the average daily use at present being 450,000 gallons. Chlorination of the water was commenced in 1935 and in 1942 a proportional feed chlorinator was installed in a building erected on the Wales Road.



Water Department employees, James O'Connell, Herman Winter, and John Gola at the town reservoir.

In the mid 1930's about 100,000 pine trees were set out on the 260-acre water-

shed around the two wells. Some of these trees are now of good size and should eventually bring in quite a bit of revenue in the form of lumber.

In recent years the A. D. Ellis Mills and the C. F. Church Manufacturing Company have installed wells to supply water for their own use. This has greatly lightened the load on the town system. The Monson State Hospital has also enlarged their well field and storage capacity.

In passing, it might be of interest to note that the first home connection was made on May 11, 1895, at the residence of Dr. P. W. Soule.

Note should also be made of the damage caused to the system at the time of the 1933 hurricane and flood of 1955. The latter caused damage of \$25,000, the entire Ely Road and Mill Street lines having to be replaced. The 1938 damage was not as costly.

At present the distribution system is made up of twenty-five miles of pipelines so connected by cross lines, and with a system of valves so located, that in case of a break, only a few homes might be affected at one time. For fire protection, one hundred fifty-three hydrants are connected to the mains. Our excellent water system is superintended by Herman Winter, assisted by John Gola and James O'Connell. The Water Commissioners are John L. Murphy, James F. McConchie and Charles H. F. Osborn.

Memorials

MEMORIAL TOWN HALL

Among the many beautiful public buildings in the town, is the Memorial Town Hall, located on Main Street. It is the outcome of a movement on the part of the Soldiers' Memorial Association and public spirited citizens.

Joseph L. Reynolds and his sons, Rice M. and Theodore Reynolds, gave seventeen



Memorial Town Hall

thousand dollars, including the land which was the property of R. M. Reynolds. It was dedicated in 1885 — cost forty-two thousand dollars.



Town Hall Annex

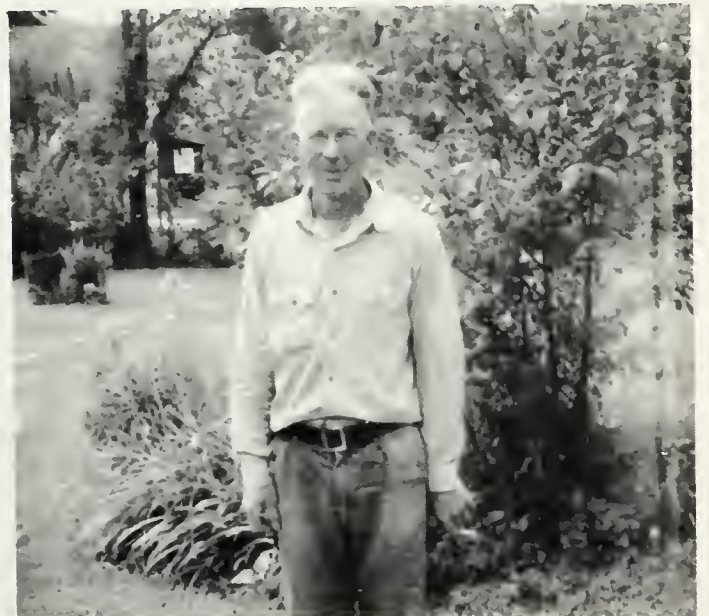
The imposing structure is of Monson granite. On the ground floor is the public hall, on which walls have been placed the bronze memorial tablets, containing the names of the veterans of the Civil, Spanish

American, and World War I. At this writing preparations are made to add the names of World War II and Korean Veterans.

There are also rooms for the use of the selectmen and other town officers. Marcus Keep Post 155 G.A.R. have a hall and rooms on the second floor. The basement contains the town safe, storage and heating rooms and the "Town Lockup."

The town meetings which had previously been held in the "Meeting House" (Congregational Church) and according to town records, later in the Methodist Church, were held in the newly finished building on August 15, 1885. The report of the building committee — R. M. Reynolds, Cyrus W. Holmes Jr., S. F. Cushman, Dr. G. E. Fuller, A. D. Ellis, J. C. Aldrich and A. A. Gage — was accepted and a note of thanks extended to them and the contractors, the Flynt Building and Construction Co.

In 1902 the stage was rebuilt and thoroughly fitted up with the latest theatrical equipment. The roof in the rear of the hall was raised to admit more light when the stage was enlarged, and four dressing



Francis Hickey — Custodian

rooms were built underneath it. The heavy asbestos drop curtain was installed. It was decorated with a scene from Housatonic Valley, copied from a painting by Bellows. The Scenic artist who decorated the curtain was Arthur Greenus of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Citizens of the town regret the misuse

of this outstanding mural. Actors have punched holes in it, and during depression days attempts were made to patch it, causing the distortion of the perspective. There were seven scenes painted for back drops—a parlor, chamber, prison, street, garden, forest and landscape. These stage fixings ranked among the foremost in halls of this kind.

The committee in charge of alterations, consisted of Arthur Norcross, chairman, Rufus P. Cushman and H. M. Smith. The carpenter work was done by Julius N. Graves; roofing and plumbing by C. J. Leary; mason work by C. A. Sweet; stage rigging by L. J. Couch of Hartford, Connecticut; painting by E. J. Osborne; electrical equipment by Bowman and Gregg of Springfield.

The building still stands, a credit to Monson and an honor to the patriotic soldiers in whose memory it was designed and built.

Libraries

Libraries in the strict sense of the term date back to antiquity, but the free public library is comparatively young. In the



Monson Library

United States the growth of the free public library gained strength in the mid 1800's. New England — and in particular Massachusetts — was an early leader in the movement. In 1851 the Massachusetts legislature passed the Public Library Law enabling municipalities to raise and appropriate funds for the support of the public libraries.

Monson residents can be proud of the fact that the need for this type of library was recognized early, and the present Monson Free Library and Reading Room Association, organized in 1878, was one of the first 135 libraries in the state. However, other types of libraries existed in Monson in much earlier times.

The first library of which records have been preserved was organized January 1, 1796, under the name of the Social Library Company and was kept in the house of Jonathan Torrey, librarian and one of the prime movers of the enterprise. This was a share-holding library, the type which became important in Massachusetts in 1790 and which was a forerunner of the modern free public library. It was owned by 31 persons and contained some 235 volumes predominantly on theology and great literature. One Saturday each month was designated as library day and people came from a radius of 12 miles bringing their lunches and visiting with friends for the day. In 1852, after 56 years the library was divided among its members.

The second library, the Augmenting Social Library, was formed in 1800 as a joint stock association with 18 members; this was incorporated in 1805. The number of books was small but grew steadily with the emphasis on their content, and the result was that the character of the books was higher than that of the average in a library of those times. The library, housed in the home of its librarian, Mr. Rufus Flynt, was open the first Monday evening of each month when all books were to be returned. Records show that meetings were held for about twenty years. At the last meeting the members voted to put their books into a new library to be formed if 50 persons would agree to take shares in it. No trace of the proposed library has been found.

The present library has in its possession several volumes inscribed thus: "Property of the Stafford and Monson Circulating Library — to be returned the first Thursday in January, April, July and October at 1

p.m." The date of the origin of such a library has not been ascertained.

The Flynt and Packard Library, named for its donors, was established in 1835 for the benefit of Monson Academy. About this same time the farmers in the town contributed \$5.00 each for the purchase of books. This Agricultural Library of 84 volumes was later given to the Monson Free Library. In 1916 this same Rural Farmers Club gave to the library a fund for the purchase of books relating to agriculture.

Membership in these early libraries was evidently limited to men. The ladies of the town became active in 1860 and formed a book club, known as the Monson Book Club but popularly referred to as the Ladies' Book Club. A notation in the Club's record book mentions that they donated books to the S. S. Library, which was being formed in 1866. No other references to such a library have been found to date, although the initials could have stood for Sunday School Library.

As early as 1872 Monson had a drug-store rental library, for the Club's minutes show that after use by the members the books were loaned to John Phipps, druggist, for outside circulation with the Club receiving part, or perhaps all, of the rental fees. This book club was still in existence when the free public library was formed at which time the ladies voted to give all their books to the new library.

An authoritative account states that "Certain things which occurred in the village in the early part of the year 1875 turned the attention of the people to the need of a reading room and library for the young men who found employment here, as well as for permanent residents." Consequently a Reading Room Association was informally organized and the citizens set about to earn the necessary funds with which to begin. Late in 1875 a Reading Room was opened in the Barton Block and was maintained for two and a half years. Experience gained in the above venture showed the importance of connecting a public library with it.

Accordingly there met on March 27, 1877, sixteen prominent men: Dr. G. E. Fuller, A. A. Gage, Charles Fowler, R. S. Munn, S. F. Cushman, Charles H. Merrick, C. W. Holmes, Jr., William K. Flynt, Dr. Charles Hammond, E. F. Morris, Wilbur J. McElwain, G. H. Newton, the Reverend Charles B. Sumner, F. E. Morris, the Reverend James Tufts and Benjamin A. Day. These men formally organized the Monson

Free Library and Reading Room Association as a corporation under provision of the state laws. A constitution and by-laws were adopted May 4, 1877.

The Association received its charter March 1, 1878, and on June 17, 1878, the library was first opened with 753 volumes



Library Interiors — 1882

and was still located in the Barton Block. Mrs. W. K. Flynt and Miss Molly Flynt served as volunteer librarians. The library was open two afternoons and two evenings a week until the appointment of Ralph Clifford, the first paid librarian, on November 27, 1879. Beginning then the library has been open daily except Sundays and holidays. In connection with Mr. Clifford there is an interesting item in the library records which states: "Whereas I, Ralph Clifford, of Monson, Mass., having entered into an agreement with the Monson Free Library Association the conditions of which are as follows: In consideration of the use of such part of the front of the Library Room as I may need for the purpose of carrying on my business of retailing boots and shoes; I am to assume the office of Librarian, to furnish fuel and lights, and to take proper care of the room and its appurtenances. I also bind myself to enforce all of the Rules and Regulations of the Association and hold myself responsible for any loss or damage to the Library, resulting from any carelessness of mine. (Signed) Ralph Clifford. Nov. 22, 1879."

In the fall of 1880, Mrs. Carrie Lyon Dale informed the Association of her intention to present to them a library building as a memorial to her father, Horatio Lyon, owner of the Monson Woolen Manufacturing Co. At the same time Mrs. Lyon, widow of Horatio Lyon, said that she would present to the library \$20,000 as a permanent fund. The cost of the building and furnishings amounted to \$35,000. The building, constructed of Monson granite, was formally dedicated March 28, 1882, at which time it contained 1639 volumes.

The growth of the library has been steady, both in number of books and in usefulness. At present it houses some 25,000 volumes. In pre-automobile days book deposits were placed in district schools and in outlying farmhouses so that the greatest number of residents could be reached. On June 16, 1919, the Branch Library was opened at South Main Street School for the convenience of adults and school children at the south end of town. Beginning March 1, 1957, the service to adults was discontinued and the Branch now functions as a Junior High School Library. In November 1957 a Branch Library for children was opened at Hillside Elementary School. At the close of the fiscal year February 29, 1960, the book circulation for the three libraries totaled 39,426 and the number of active borrowers was 1698.

At present the trustees of the Association are: George D. Morrow, President; Mrs. Laura Keith, Vice-president; George E. Rogers, Secretary; Carlos H. Ball, Treasurer; Bert P. Anderson, Joseph E. Avella, Omer E. Bradway, Mrs. D. W. Ellis, II, E. Russell Sprague. Corporators are the above and also Mrs. H. Wesley Benton, Dr. James E. Bush, Mrs. Cedric Cross, Edward M. Hefferman, Normand A. Laflamme, Clarence L. Martin, Mrs. Allen Midyette, Victor E. Rosenlund, Mrs. Francis Sweeney, Walter E. Swift.

Present library staff members are: Librarian, Miss Sylvia DeSantis; First Assistant and Hillside School Librarian, Miss Emily V. Wood; South Main School Librarian, Mrs. Dorothy K. Lyons; library assistants, Mrs. Gladys B. Belville, Miss Irene Walinski and Miss Alice E. Holda.

Soldiers' Monuments

The Soldiers' Monument was erected by Cyrus W. Holmes, Sr., presented to the Marcus Keep Post No. 155, G.A.R. and dedicated July 4, 1884.



Dedication of Soldiers' Monument

The monument is of Vermont granite, designed and constructed by R. F. Carter. The dimensions are 12 feet square at the base and 46½ feet high. The soldier is colossal — 7½ feet in height and weighing about four tons. The conception of the artist is, that a soldier on picket, being suddenly aroused by an unusual noise, starts up, grasping his musket and looks intently in the direction of the disturbance. The statue is a fine one and holds the eye of the spectator.

The inscriptions are intended to em-

phasize the union of States, and its emblems to represent the four branches of the service.

On the south is the United States coat of arms, representing the Infantry — be-

neath is 1884 — then the words, "Erected by Cyrus W. Holmes to commemorate the valor and patriotism of the soldiers, who on land and sea upheld the National Cause, 1861-1865."



Flynt Memorial



Cushman Memorial



Soldiers' Monument



Dr. Frank Maguire

The Navy, on the West side, has the anchor and shots, and a sentence from Webster's reply to Hayne in 1830, "To the union

we owe our safety at home and our consideration and dignity abroad."

At the North are crossed cannons, representing the Artillery, beneath which is written, "Without Union Our Independence and Liberty can never be maintained," from Jackson's inaugural — 1833.

The crossed sabres represent the Cavalry, and beneath is a sentence from Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863. "Under God the government of the

people, for the people, and by the people, shall not perish from the earth." This is on the Main Street side where all may see when passing by.

Here each Memorial Day the patriotic organizations place flags and wreaths and pause in memory of "those who gave their last full measure of devotion," while Dr. Frank Maguire gives the whole of Lincoln's famous speech.

"Let us not forget"

Flynt Park

W. N. Flynt was a great lover of nature, and he was not ashamed to talk about nature and the loveliness of the world about us. He often remarked to his friends, "This is a beautiful world to live in. I should like to live here a thousand years if I could." His favorite poem was Wordsworth's words—

"Therefore am I still
A lover of the meadows and the woods
And mountains; and of all we behold
From this green earth.
Nature never did betray

The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege
Through all the years of this our life, to lead
From joy to joy."

Mr. Flynt exemplified his love of nature by building a beautiful park in 1883, which for many years bore his name. It was a tract of land, about 200 acres, lying west of the village with entrances on High Street and Ely Road (then West Hill).

On the first level above the street was a large green, set apart for a baseball field; nearby were tennis courts, croquet grounds, and a military training field. Around the field was a driving track. Our fathers have



Picnic at Flynt's Park — children of No. 1 School about 1905. Can you pick out the following? Frank Carter, Herbert Anderson, Cecile Alonzo, Marion Keep, Roy Hale, Harold Bennett, Clark Parsons, Eunice McPherson, Forrest Hale, John Sullivan, Grace Patterson, Kate Guihan, Katherine Shea.

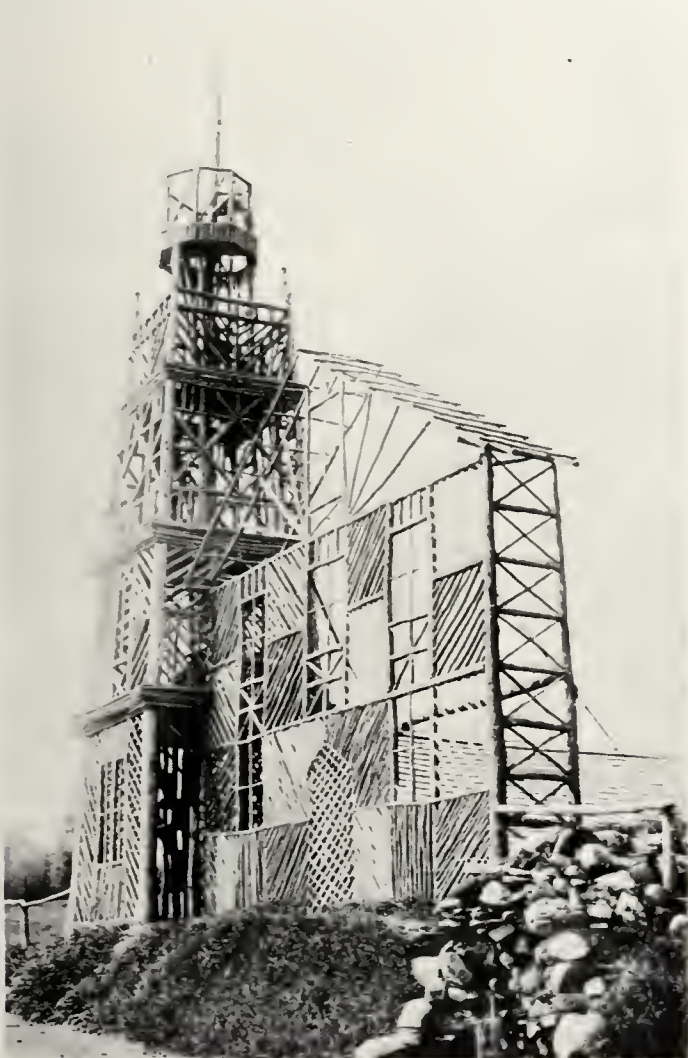
watched famous race horses perform here before large crowds. We cannot forget Eugene Foskit who was always there on such occasions with home-made ice cream, pop-corn, candy and soda-pop.

The park was most tastefully laid out in walks, (lovers lane a favorite) and drives. There was a pavilion for gatherings and roller skating, rustic seats, bandstand and three towers made of cedars from Cedar Swamp. One tower was beside the well, containing the coldest water, which ran into a natural stone basin. Another, a one hundred foot tower was situated on top of Mt. Ella, six hundred feet high, containing a fine telescope, with which on a clear day one could see Boston Harbor. The third tower was situated on top of a rocky cliff beside the children's playground and picnic area. One will never forget the swings suspended from those gigantic oaks, the see-saws with the sturdy handles, the children playing house, or lovers sitting upon the benches conveniently placed therein. Rare flowers surprised the strollers and gladdened the botany seekers.



The Pavilion

There was also a museum containing many rare curios — especially shells and minerals — of all kinds. A menagerie of birds and animals was there; the bears in the stone pit were favorites — or perhaps some preferred the monkeys. When the park was closed, these birds and animals were killed and stuffed and placed with the valuable relics in a building behind Flynt's



Flynt Tower



Mt. Ella Tower

Store. They were all burned at the time the store was destroyed.

The swimming pool cannot be forgotten. Long after the park was closed, the boys would gather and clean their favorite swimming hole, or some father would bring over the cellar digger and make it deeper. It was



Entrance to Flynt Park

fun to listen to the tales of the 'old swimming hole'.

Rev. F. S. Hatch wrote in his address in memory of William Norcross Flynt, "According to the terms of Mr. Flynt's will, the park is left in the care of the trustees, who are annually to expend thereon the income of a specified sum. Flynt Park is to be maintained for public use during a term of years measured in some degree, by the benefit and pleasure the people derive therefrom." *The Monson Directory* of 1894—1895 states, "Mr. Flynt has also established a fund of \$5000 the income to be applied to its perpetual care."

Trolleys came into general use and one could go to Forest Lake for ten cents and enjoy the canoes on the lake or the thrilling stock company, twenty cents would take them to Forest Park, 25 cents to Mountain Park to see the latest plays. So, "the pleasures of Flynt Park began to wane and the Belted Dutch roamed the plain."

Industry

More than one-fifth of the area of Monson was covered by forest when the first settlers arrived in the early 1700's. In addition to supplying abundant lumber for homes, and fuel for fires, these forests provided the raw materials for the first industries.

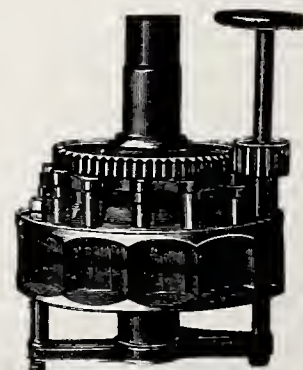
A glance at the map will reveal the many streams within our boundaries which were soon harnessed to provide power for the saw mills which sprang up in all parts of the town. Many flourished until the beginning of the twentieth century, but only one water-powered saw mill remains in operation today. This is owned by William C. Moulton, and is located at his home on Palmer Road.

The following quotation taken from the *King Genealogy* written by Harvey B. King in 1897, describes the occupation of William King who settled in the Munn District in 1770: "During the winter season he made wooden casks for holding potash. In the spring he collected wood ashes from the farmers and manufactured potash. (The first process — called leaching — allowed water to drip or wash through the ashes. The water was then evaporated leaving lye or potash. This was a dangerous industry

as the lye would burn human flesh upon contact.) Mr. King transported the potash by team to Norwich, Connecticut, about 40 miles, where there was a ready market for it at \$100 per ton. The lye or potash was used for making soap and glass. Mr. King would purchase supplies of sugar, molasses, tea, codfish, rum etc. in quantity, and trade it for the ashes, thus making two profits, showing the traditional Yankee trait."

The assessors' list of November 14, 1774, lists both Joseph Craft and Jonas Mace as owners of potash works.

Much wood was also consumed by the



Bradway Water Turbine

charcoal kilns. Many farmers had one or more kilns, usually of turf, to supply their own needs. The Springfield Armory purchased large quantities of charcoal needed for one process of gun manufacture.

Until about 1910 considerable quantities of charcoal from Monson kilns were transported to East Brimfield and Fiskdale, and used by auger shops in tempering the steel.

The development of the Boston and Albany Railroad in 1839 and the New London Northern Railroad in 1850 created still another demand for wood. Whole farms were purchased and crews of men were kept busy cutting trees for railroad ties, and sawing logs to supply the wood burning locomotives. The May 20, 1887, issue of the *Palmer Journal* carried this item: "It is estimated that 25,000 railroad ties were cut in Monson the past year."

In the early 1800's the Gage family lived in the south part of town on Crow Hill. Two orphan boys from Springfield were brought out to assist with the summer work. They had need for only one boy through the winter, but as Mr. Gage favored one boy and his wife favored the other, it was difficult to decide. Finally they agreed to send both boys to the shed for wood, and whichever boy brought back the larger load would stay — Charles Harlem Bradway stayed.

He grew up on the farm and left to work in a woolen mill in Connecticut, returning after Mr. Gage's death to run the farm, which he eventually purchased. His son, Charles Phillip Bradway, was born here in 1841. Charles was a bright, mechanically-minded youngster. He watched the farmers gather alders which grew abundantly in the swamp, after which they spent many tedious hours removing the bark with wooden hammers. When only 11 years old, he developed a wooden headed hammer operated through a system of belts from a water wheel, and did a thriving business in cleaning the alders, which were then carted to the Hazard Powder Company in Enfield, Connecticut, to be ground and used in the manufacture of gun powder.

Four years later, he remodeled the Boyden Wheel, converting it into a flume wheel. He continued experimenting and sold his first water wheel at the age of 18. About this time he constructed the pond at the base of Peaked Mountain to supply power for an up and down saw mill. Some time later, Mr. Bradway moved to West Stafford, Con-

necticut, and established the water wheel factory still operated by his son Marshall.

Grist mills, which ground corn and other grains, also operated through the 1700's and 1800's — often on the same site with the saw mills. The *Hampden County Business Directory* for 1876 lists two: S. F. Conant on Wales Road, and H. C. Day on the Lower Palmer Road. H. C. Day's mill (now owned by William C. Moulton) is still listed in the 1897-8 Directory together with Otto C. Davis of Silver Street, and Squier and Co. on Squier Avenue.

Horses provided the principal means of transportation until the automobile came into general use early in 1900. Many small shops, such as those of the carriage maker, leather worker and blacksmith provided employment for many craftsmen. Four carriage makers are listed in 1876, and at least two were still operating in 1897.

One blacksmith, George Washington Burdick, became known throughout the country. He moved to Monson in 1866 and set up a smithy shop on Mechanic Street where he manufactured stone cutters tools. He was the designer of the "Boss Hammer" used by quarrymen, and which he sold in all parts of the United States and abroad. His son James carried on the business until 1927.

Cider was a popular beverage and Monson has had a number of cider mills. Parts of two such mills, both operated by a system of wooden gears and powered by horses, may still be seen. The Clinton Bradway mill is located on the Springfield Rod and Gun Club property, and the second mill is located on the property now owned by Mrs. Andrew Magill.

Another cider mill which will be remembered by many was operated by the Sullivan Brothers, William and Cornelius, on Mill Street, well into the present century.

Some of the more interesting and unusual small industries included a shop to extract linseed oil from flax which was located on the site of A. D. Ellis No. 1 mill about 1800. Bog iron was gathered in Silver Street at a spot known as Cato's pool and carried to a shop just south of the present Polish American Club. Here Joseph and Jeremiah Bumstead converted it into Bar Iron.

Timothy Packard Sr. had a shop near Conant's pond on the Wales Road where he made lead pipe by rolling the lead out in sheets, then molding it around an iron rod,

after which the seam was soldered the whole length of the pipe. He sold to Mason Moulton about 1829.

Thomas Blanchard invented the irregular turning lathe for use of the Armory about 1820, and shortly after this a man named Obed Blanchard started an axe helve (handle) factory in the Silver Street area using a similar lathe. David Hannum made axes at the north factory (site of C. F. Church Company) at one time.

Roswell Merrick started a tannery in 1808 just north of Bethany Cemetery. Stephen Tobey purchased it in 1820, made some improvements, and carried on successfully for forty years. His son Clinton and R. O. Fenton continued the business until about 1870 when the buildings burned.

Clover was grown extensively and the seed extracted at clover mills. Mention of a clover mill owned by Marsena Munn and Thomas Skinner is made in a petition in the town warrant of April 4, 1803. This mill was located nearly opposite Richard Sutcliffe's farm on the Wales Road. Another mill was operated by David Colton in the vicinity of Colton Hollow in 1839.

Holland's History of Western Massachusetts published in 1855 lists the following manufacturers: N. P. Barton who manufactured tin ware. Rogers and Co., manufacturers of men's overalls, shirts and drawers, amounting to \$300 worth per week; and D. D. Moody who manufactured gold and silver bowed spectacles totaling \$10,000 to \$16,000 worth annually and employed 7 to 9 hands. D. D. Moody purchased the land and buildings on Main Street (now the site of Gladys Belville's home) from Austin Fuller in 1847. This may have been the site of the spectacle factory. His widow sold to Hamilton White in 1866. The White Brothers ran a tin shop there in addition to their plumbing business. They made the tin spools on which the braid was wound at Merrick and Fay's hat shop.

Mr. Fuller operated a cigar factory in the building just north of the Central Vermont Railway station. An experiment in raising mulberry trees for the cultivation of silk worms was popular for a short time. Mulberry trees still grow on the Herbert Battige and Leonard Harrington farms, and the Battige barn is said to have been used for the cultivation of silk worms.

The July 17, 1852, issue of the *Palmer Journal* announced that Abel Bradway of Moulton Hill, Elizah Valentine of State Ave-

nue, and William Dodge of Palmer had obtained a patent for a machine for shaving shingles. The October 16, 1852, issue carried this description of the machine:

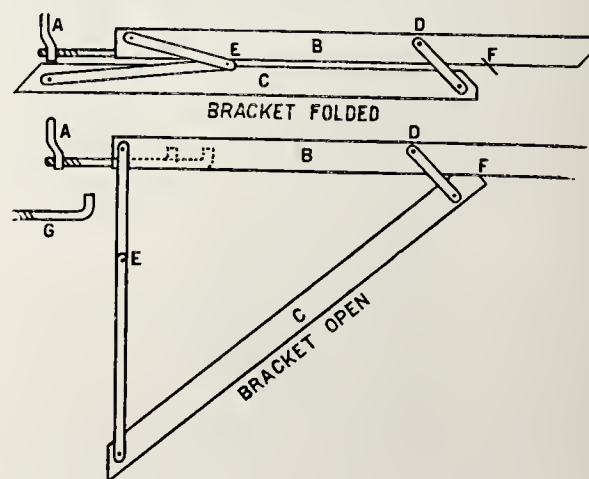
"The machine for shaving shingles occupies but little room, may be driven with a two horse power and throws out shingles at the rate of from 20,000 to 30,000 per day, or a better way to state it—as fast as a man can feed the blocks into the machine. Shingles are first split in the usual manner, when the machine takes them, forces them through two shaving knives which close upon them in a manner corresponding to the desired taper, and throws them into a pile ready for jointing. The machine sells for about \$200."

The September 24, 1853, issue of the paper tells of the sale of the rights to make and use the shingle machine in three Western States for \$10,000, and sales were then pending amounting to \$10,000 more.

About 1843 Jesse Leavens, Molla and James Cowles and Jasper Severance started a window sash and blind factory on State Avenue on the site of the house now lived in by George Russell. Lyrus and Peggy Knox purchased the business in 1847. It was still in existence in 1853 for an item in the August issue of the *Palmer Journal* mentions Colonel Knox's sash factory.

Edson Sexton, who purchased the property in 1865, was also an inventor. The Monson Free Library has the patent, number 64,152, dated April 23, 1867, issued to him for a new and useful improvement in the gang plow.

The remains of a foundation are still visible in the Silver Street area of the woolen mill operated by Lothrop Clark in the middle 1800's. The *Business Directory* of 1897-8 lists Erastus Davis as a shoddy manufacturer in the Silver Street District.



Danforth Bracket

Another small woolen mill was located between Fenton Road and the Quaboag River. Charles F. Grosvenor purchased 12 acres, including water privilege and dam, brick mill, store house and tenement house, from Alice M. Smith in 1892. On May 1, 1893, he together with John Stevens of Ludlow and George T. Greenhalgh of Pawtucket, Rhode Island formed the Grosvenor Woolen Co. This mill operated for about twenty years and was then sold to the Quaboag Leather Company popularly known as the "Leatherboard." Scraps of leather were ground up into sheets which were then sold to firms manufacturing inexpensive leather items.

Ford, Hawkes and Company purchased the property and machinery in 1909 and operated it as a shoddy mill. During the first World War the Achushnet Process Company purchased the plant. They took the scraps from the tire factories and separated the rubber from the cotton with the aid of large beaters. Both the cotton and the rubber were then resold.

The dam which provided the power for this mill has now been blown up to avert

a flood hazard, and fire and the passing of time have destroyed virtually all evidence of this once thriving business site.

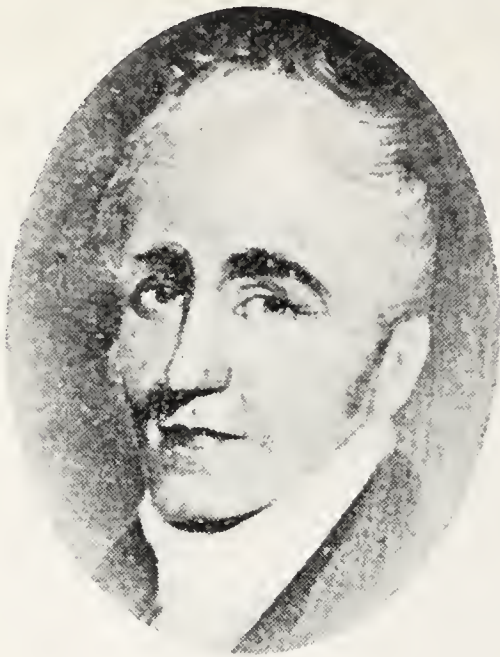


Employees of Hall Monumental Works

The chapter on the Geographical Sketch of the town emphasized the many rocky formations. The early homeowners utilized these ledges on their property to provide the foundations for homes, barns, etc.

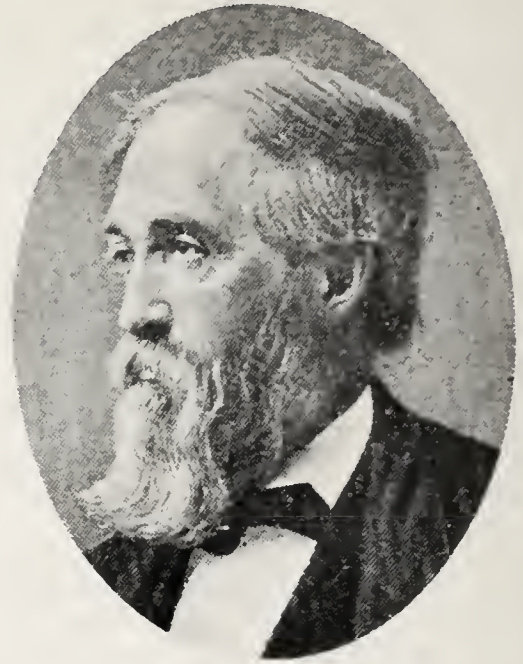


An Early Photo of Monson Quarry



Rufus Flynt

The small quarry located on the property now owned by Edward Farquhar of Ely Road was first opened by Marcus Chapin and Edward Keep about 1876 for this purpose. George and John Hall purchased the quarry about 1895 and operated it as the Hall Monumental Works. They employed about 20 men. A small stone cutting shed was maintained



Hon. William N. Flynt

just north of the Central Vermont Railroad Station by this firm.

Greely Clay and W. N. Flynt Granite Company both worked this quarry for short periods of time. Mandel Swanson was the last man to work this quarry in the 1930's when sidewalk curbing was quarried for the State of Massachusetts.



Flynt Quarry

The largest and best known quarry is situated on a hill over a mile north of the center of town on what is now the Upper Palmer Road. It covers an area of 300 acres with a working face of 1000 feet in length and 45 feet in height. The geological formation is in layers of from one to twelve feet thick which rendered the work of quarrying easy and rapid. The stone is of two distinct shades: one a dark blue and the other a mottled white. Each was free from iron and polished beautifully.

The quarry was opened about 1809 by the Federal Government to obtain stone for use in building the U. S. Armory in Springfield, Massachusetts. It then remained idle until 1825, when Rufus Flynt began operating with a gang of five men. The trimmings of the Chicopee Bank in Springfield were of Monson granite and were delivered all the way by ox teams.

His son William took over the management in 1836. With the opening of the Boston and Albany Railroad in 1839, the demand for stone increased and it was delivered to the station by teams, a distance of three miles.

Many of the workers came from Ireland and later ones from Italy, where they had worked in quarries from an early age. The work at first was ten hours a day, later nine and then eight, and was seasonal, beginning as soon as the weather permitted,

usually mid March, and continuing until a heavy snow around November. During the winter many men worked in the hat shop and all took credit at the Flynt Company store. The company also ran a boarding house.

In 1875 a railroad track two miles long connecting the quarry with the New London Northern Railroad at a point just south of the Chestnut Street Crossing was constructed at a cost of \$30,000. This enabled the firm to compete in the Boston, New York and Chicago markets.

William N. Flynt retired in 1875 and the business was carried on by his sons, William K., Lyman, George and Rufus, incorporating under the name of the W. N. Flynt Granite Co. in 1885. In 1888, 30,000 tons of stone valued at \$200,000 was quarried for shipment. About 200 quarrymen were employed from March to December and an almost equal number were kept at work in the winter.

During the 1920's stone was often cut in Monson which had been quarried in other towns in which the Monson company had an interest. James Moran operated the quarry to a small extent for curbing and trap rock after he purchased the property in 1936. It is still owned by his heirs.

Stone was shipped as far west as Topeka, Kansas and Keokuk, Iowa. The largest



Stone Cutting Sheds at Flynt Quarry

stone quarried here was 354 feet long, 11 feet wide and four feet thick.

Monson granite was used for constructing Memorial Town Hall, Horatio Lyon Memorial Library, St. Patrick's Church, First Universalist Church, the Flynt and Cushman fountains, as well as the bridge at A. D. Ellis #3 mill, and the bridge on State Street. Both these bridges were destroyed in the 1955 flood. This stone was also used extensively for foundations of buildings in this area.

The bridge over the Quaboag River near the wire mill in Palmer; many of the abutments on the Boston and Albany railroad, and their depots in Palmer and Boston; South Park Avenue M. E. Church in Chicago, Illinois; Congregational Church in Wakefield, Massachusetts; City Hall in Holyoke; Saint Francis Xavier Church in New York; Catholic Church in Norwich, Connecticut; a High School in East Orange, New Jersey; the Universalist Church in Palmer. and the Hampden County Court House and Hall of Records in Springfield, Massachusetts, are all constructed of Monson Granite. Ezio DeSantis cut the soldier's monument in Hampden using Antonio Alonzo Sr. as the model.

The W. N. Flynt Granite Co. also operated a trap rock quarry at the site known then, as now, as the "Rock House" situated to the southeast of the main quarry.

A small quarry located in the vicinity of Peaked Mountain on the property known as the Captain Cady place was operated to provide stone used in the building of the New London and Northern Railroad.

STRAW HAT INDUSTRY

Charles H. Merrick, youngest son of Gideon and Beulah Merrick, was born in 1812 on a farm located on the present site of Monson State Hospital. He was always interested in mechanical things and worked as a self-taught master weaver in a woolen mill in Wales, and later in Rockville, Connecticut. During the depression in 1838, he was laid off and returned to Monson by way of Somers, Connecticut.

A palmleaf business had just started in Somers and manufacturing was supposed to be conducted with great secrecy, but Mr. Merrick, by good fortune, gained a sight of one of the few looms for weaving palmleaf then in operation. He was able to obtain seven pounds of leaf for sheets and two pounds for braid.

Aided by the ideas gained at Somers, Mr. Merrick constructed a palm-leaf loom and then hired a woman living on East Hill to begin weaving. Another woman living on the hills to the west began braiding for the young manufacturer, who, at this time, lived near the present C. F. Church Company plant. It was his nightly task to go a mile in one direction for the leaf and a mile in the opposite direction for the braid needed for the next day's work. The style of hat known as Shaker hoods was popular at this time and as no woman could be found to make a model, Mr. Merrick had the honor of cutting and sewing with his own hand the first palmleaf hood made in Massachusetts.

The following year Mr. Merrick's broth-



Flynt Quarry Engine

er-in-law, Rufus Fay, joined the firm which was organized under the name of Merrick and Fay. The new firm moved to the center of town and rented the building on the site of the Spinning Wheel Restaurant. The families of both partners lived in the front part of the house and the Shaker hood factory was established in the ell. Only three or four girls were employed at first and the hoods had a ready sale at \$1 to \$1.25 each.

In 1841 the location of the present day high school was purchased and the two-story building located there became the center of manufacture of ladies hats and bonnets from foreign and domestic straw braid.

Business continued to prosper and in 1856 a new and larger building was erected. In November 1858 the firm was reorganized and Henry Hodges of Foxboro and J. T. D. Hersey of East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, were admitted as equal partners. Hodges and Hersey were at this time engaged in the straw-goods trade in New York. The new firm was known as Merrick, Fay & Co. at the Monson factory, and Hodges, Hersey and Co. at the New York salesroom.

Up to the time of the invention of the Bosword braid-sewing machine in 1863, all the braid-sewing and finishing was done by hand and the work put out to large numbers of Monson families (about one-third of the families in town were thus employed) and to colonies of workers in the surrounding

towns. As many as 1000 to 1200 sewers were employed by Merrick and Fay and another 300 people worked in the factory.

As one of the new sewing machines would do the work of 15 girls, the colonies of workers in other towns were gradually done away with, while at the same time, the volume of production increased.

The manufacture of men's and boys' hats was successfully introduced in 1863 and the plant expanded to accommodate this department. Their first shop and the house next to it on the site of Brown's Drug Store were converted to boarding houses with sleeping quarters for up to 100 girls who came to Monson to work in the hat factory. Private homes also boarded these girls.

Many processes were involved in the manufacture of hats. The bleaching was done in sheds at the rear of the plant by dipping the skeins of braid in sal soda and hanging them in brimstone smoke. The braid was then sunned and the process repeated until desired whiteness was obtained. This often took a week. The braid was then dyed before it went to the sewing room on the second floor.

As many as 130 girls worked here, each operating her own sewing machine. The tips were hard to start and the girls would often sew them by hand at home each night to be ready for the next day, as they were paid



The Sewing Room

by the dozens of hats. It was possible to make 8 or 10 dozen coarse braid hats or 3 dozen fine braid hats a day. Fifty yards of the fine Milan braid imported from Italy and 150 yards of thread would be used to make one hat. The girls were paid about \$3 per dozen for sewing of this type of hat. Canton braid was imported from China, split braid from Belgium and French braid and French chip (a braid made from wood fibre) came from France.

Glue sizing was melted in tanks and about four dozen hats were dipped at once. The blocking was done by pinning the hat to a plaster block greased with tallow to prevent sticking and tearing. After inspecting and mending, the hats were pressed

on a polished metal dye the exact shape of the hat. This dye had a rubber jacket thrust inside the hat and then was subjected to pressure. The hats were all one size as the milliners made necessary adjustments and trimmed them in their own shops.

The final step was shellacking to give a good gloss. Four to six dozen hats were packed into wooden boxes for shipment to New York. The box shop was added at the rear of the building in 1871.

Prices ranged from \$4 per dozen for sailors, \$18 per dozen for fine milan braid, to \$28 a dozen for a fancy braid hat. Work was seasonal, beginning in October or November when samples were made from the

SPRING
AND
SUMMER STYLES
1887

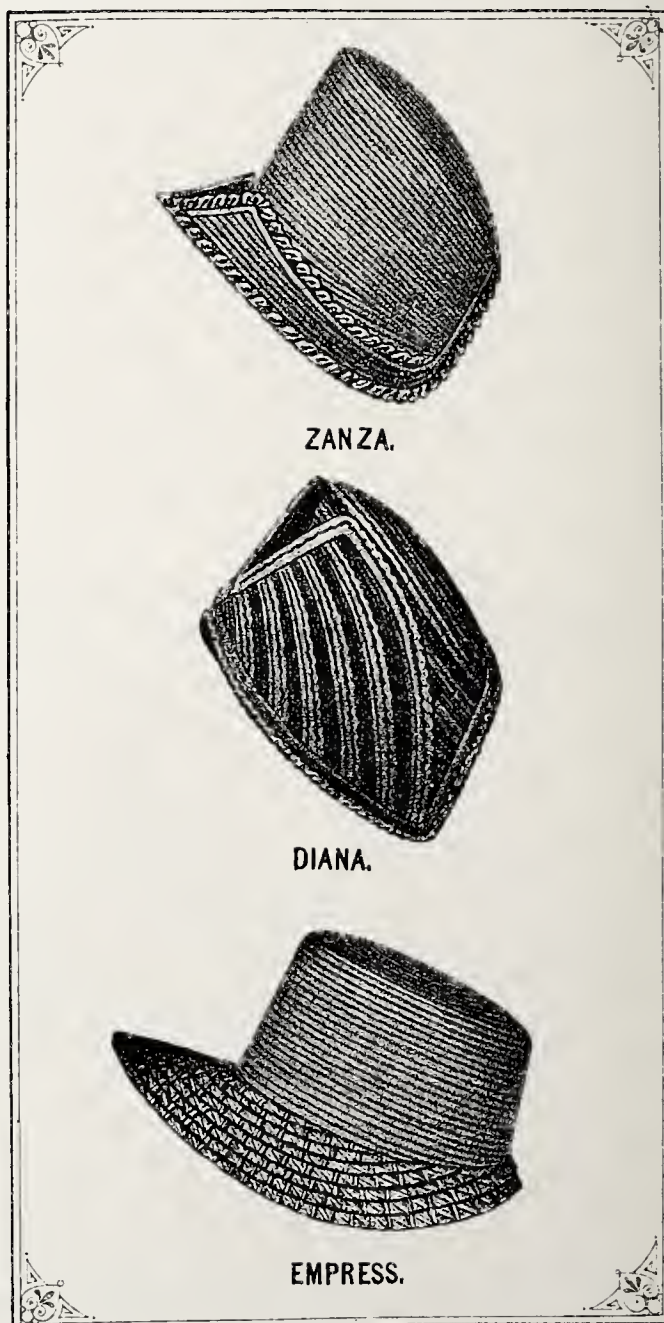
MANUFACTURED BY

H. HODGES, SON & CO.

616 & 618 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

FACTORY AT
MONSON, MASS.

SACKETT, WILHELMS & BETZIG, 45-51 ROSE ST. N. Y.



latest Paris designs. Six thousand hats per day were made during rush season near Easter. The working day was from 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. with an hour for lunch. The Saturday closing time was 4:00 P.M. in the early years, and later 1:00 P.M.

Charles Merrick's son, Charles who was born in 1853, joined the firm in 1875. Rufus Fay's two sons, Rufus then 19 and Frederick 17 years old, were working for the firm in 1879 when their father died. The three sons continued to run the business until 1891 when they sold to Heimann and Lichten Co.

The new firm introduced the making of felt hats to keep the factory busy during the slack summer season. The "body" hats were purchased in rough form from factories at Amesbury, Massachusetts, and Danbury, Connecticut. At the Monson plant the hats were shaped and trimmed with silks and velvets purchased from the Cheney Mills of Manchester, Connecticut.

Julius Heimann, the supervisor, was very popular with the workers and the plant prospered until 1912 when the entire manufacturing plant was destroyed by fire. Operations were continued at the Gage and Reynolds mill opposite Buckwell Nursing Home until the factory on Cushman Street, purchased from the Cushman family, could be enlarged and made ready.

Julius Heimann was killed in an auto accident in 1918 and his partner, Mr. Lichten died about a month later. D. E. Nolan assumed leadership of the factory from Mr. Lichten's death until 1927 when the doors were closed for the last time.

This was a sad day as the hat industry had meant much to the town. They had a reputation for hiring only the finest of help and many of our present families can trace the reason for settling in Monson to a desire of their parents or grandparents to work in the hat shop.



Heimann-Lichten Hat Shop

In the early 1880's Alvin A. Gage and Rice Munn Reynolds formed the Columbia Straw Works, located opposite Buckwell Nursing Home. This was the same site where in 1857 Joseph L. Reynolds built the two-set steam mill which burned about June 1858.

The following description is found in the 1884 edition of *Monson Illustrated* with Pen and Camera by Charles W. Eddy, Ware, Massachusetts:

"Columbia Straw Works are engaged in the manufacture and finishing of straw goods: their product of sewed hats being about two hundred dozen daily. The finishing of Leghorn, Malaga and Chinese Hats is carried on quite extensively, they having facilities for finishing twenty-five thousand of this class daily. They also do quite a large business in finishing the finer class of goods known as Panama. In addition to the finishing of their own goods they finish a large amount of Palm Leaf and other hats for outside parties.

The main shop is three story and attic, one hundred and five by thirty-six feet, with an ell one hundred and ten by forty-two feet, two story and attic. The bleach and dye-house is seventy-five by twenty-five, in which they manufacture their wooden cases. The bleach houses are two hundred feet in length, and twelve in width; they also have other buildings for store-houses.

The bleaching of goods commences in August, and the sewing and finishing about November and continues to the June following, making about eight months business in the year. The annual production is about \$350,000.

Messrs. Gage & Reynolds sell their own goods, having a store at 625 Broadway,



Trimming Department — Hat Shop Employees

N. Y. under the management of D. W. Drake. They also are selling agents of B. H. Spaulding & Co., of Milford, Mass. who are acknowledged by their competitors as making the finest goods in men's wear that comes into the market."

This firm is still listed in the *Business Directory* of 1897-8 but appears to have closed by 1900 as the Field Worsted Company was operating a mill on this site in that year. The buildings burned a few years later.

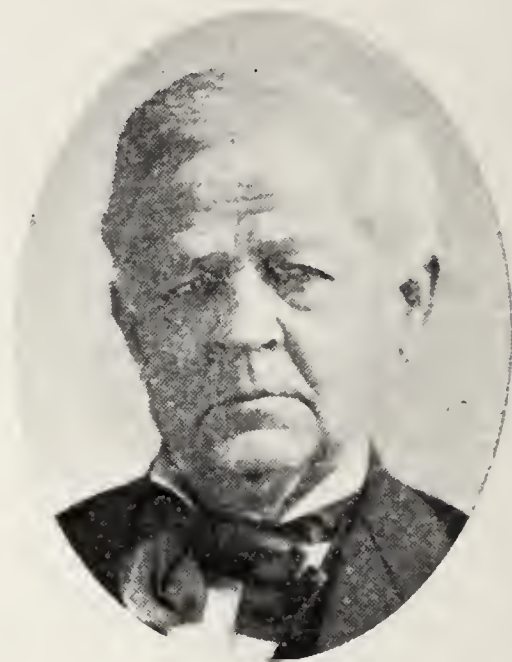
TEXTILE INDUSTRY

As we have just seen, many widely diversified industries played their part, some large, others small, in building the heritage of Monson. None survived the pitfalls of depressions, new materials, new methods of production, and the whims of the people, with the exception of the woolen industry.

To Asa Gates, a clothier (one who performed the several operations in finishing cloth) who came to Monson in 1794 belongs the credit for founding this industry here. He carried on his trade from his home until 1800 when he built a small mill near the site of the present factory on Cushman Street. Here he carded the wool brought in by the farmers, then after the material had been woven at home, he would finish the cloth.

In 1803 he converted the mill to a two-

set woolen mill and manufactured Broadcloth. A few years later the management was taken over by the Monson Woolen Manufacturing Company with Asa Gates continuing as a member of the firm.



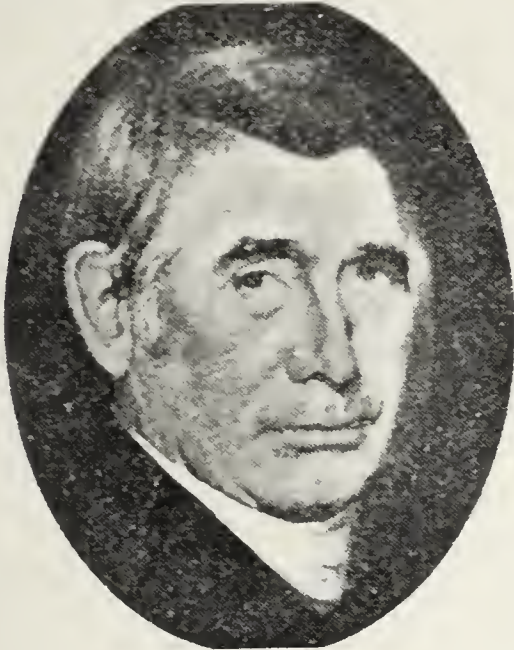
Horatio Lyon

In 1817 Horatio Lyon moved to Monson and began work as a clerk in this factory. In 1824, he together with Joel Norcross, John Wyles, Charles Fay, and Albert Norcross assumed ownership. By 1853 the firm employed 30 people and produced \$65,000



Hat Shop Felt Department

worth of satinets annually. A new building erected about 1854 contained four sets of machinery. Three years later this building burned and was replaced in 1858 with another wooden building.



Joel Norcross

Horatio Lyon became sole owner of the company in 1870 and took into partnership Solomon F. Cushman, who had come from Monson, Maine, in 1856 to take a position as bookkeeper for the firm. Upon Mr. Lyon's retirement in 1877, Solomon F. Cushman purchased the factory and together with his sons, Edward, Rufus, S. Fred, Thaddeus, and Robert continued the manufacture of cassimeres (a broad term used for a large and popular group of fancy worsteds and some woolens used for suitings and trouserings) and doeskins (a woolen material of fine quality, medium weight and smooth face finish used for trousering, broadcloth coating, waistcloth and riding habit fabric).

The wooden mill burned in 1886 and was replaced by the brick building which is still standing. Solomon Cushman died in 1900 and his sons carried on until 1912 when the buildings were sold to the Heimann and Lichten Company who had just been burned out of their Main Street factory. The buildings were enlarged and used as a hat factory until 1927. The A. D. Ellis Mills, Inc. now owns the property which is used as a storehouse.

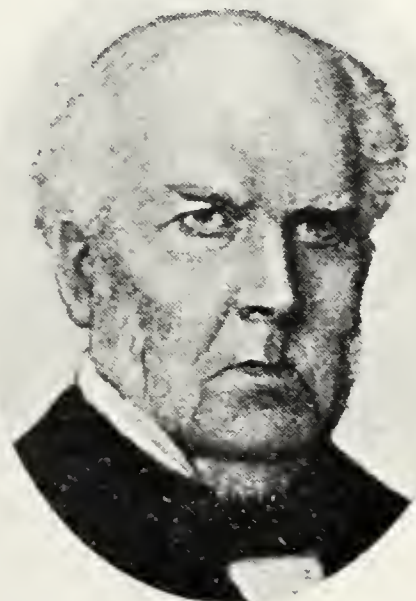
The Cushman family also operated the so-called "Branch Mill" on Elm Street. Joseph L. Reynolds built this mill in 1837 and took into partnership Cyrus W. Holmes, Sr. They sold soon after to the Hampden Cotton

Company who continued operations until 1869 when the firm was dissolved.



Solomon Cushman

The factory was purchased by C. W. Holmes and Sons who in 1872 changed from the manufacture of satinets (a fabric made of cotton warp and wool-shoddy filling, often made to resemble cassimere) to that of fancy cassimeres, producing about 400 yards daily in 1879.



Cyrus W. Holmes

C. W. Holmes, Jr. sold to S. F. Cushman and Sons in 1883. Many alterations

and improvements were made and the machinery changed from narrow Stafford looms to the Knowles Broadlooms, and the manufacture of doeskins and cassimeres was begun under the supervision of S. Fred Cushman.



S. F. Cushman Woolen Mill

man who had just completed studies at Lowell Textile Institute.

The Cushmans continued operations

until 1901 when Leonard Rosenberg purchased the firm. The Somerset Woolen Company operated it from 1904 to 1915, then Joseph Loudon purchased the plant. The next year Grant S. Kelly became his partner and the firm filled extensive orders for Army blankets during World War I. This partnership was dissolved in 1920 and Thomas J. Corcoran, The Monson Worsted Company and finally the Rayon Worsted Mills, Inc. operated this plant.

In 1929 when the plant was supposed to be used for experimental purposes in rayon products, federal agents together with Constable Herbert A. Aldrich raided it and uncovered a huge liquor distilling plant. The still, which was one of the largest ever found in this section of the state, had an estimated worth of \$25,000. The buildings burned April 24, 1931.

NORTH FACTORY

The area around the present C. F. Church Company plant is listed on early maps as the "North Village." Roswell and Gideon Merrick operated a saw and grist mill here in the early 1800's. The Monson



Branch Mill Associates: 1. Hiram Felton, 2. ——— Monty, 3. Eugene Hodge, 4. Richard Doyle, 5. Edward Murphy, 6. Potrick Dugan, 7. William Corish, 8. Elba Hodge, 9. George Hobbs, 10. Hannah Cunningham, 11. Andrew Hodge, 12. Eunice Dillan, 13. ——— Lynch, 14. Ella Harris, 15. Mrs. John Dineen, 16. Kate Branwick, 17. Mrs. Tim Lines, 18. Fred Williams, 19. Munroe Wright, 20. Patrick Corish, 21. Robert Williams, 22. Chas. Abbott, 23. Jimmie Murphy, 24. Louis Monty, 25. James Ferguson, 26. Albert A. Smith, 27. Louis Packard, 28. John Carew, 29. Clarence Wilcox, 30. Patrick Haggerty, 31. Fred Monty.

and Brimfield Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1810 and a building known as the "North Factory" was erected for the manufacture of cotton yarn. The name of Artemus Witherill and Co. is also associated with a mill on this site in the 1820's.

Sometime later a stone mill was built on the east side of the stream where satinetts were manufactured by Deacon Andrew Porter. Deacon Porter was advisor to Mary Lyon and served as the first Treasurer of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary. A business listing of 1855 indicates that 40 persons were employed, and \$30,000 worth of cotton material was produced annually.

Albert Norcross purchased the mill from Deacon Porter in 1863 and sold about seven years later to Jared Beebe and Son who manufactured woolens.

The name of Heery Bros. in 1878 and Lindly and Co. 1885-1888 appear in newspaper items as operators of these mills. The stone factory burned in 1893 and the remaining buildings about 1913.

A. D. ELLIS MILLS, INC.

The Hampden Cotton Co. built its first mill — sometimes referred to as the "old mill" in 1813 on the site of the A. D. Ellis #3 Mill. Joseph L. Reynolds became associated with this firm in September 1821 as general overseer. The company expanded and built a second mill on the site of A. D. Ellis #1 mill. Ten years later (1839) this burned and was rebuilt soon after.



Joseph L. Reynolds

In 1846 the Main Street buildings were remodeled and woolen machinery installed to replace the cotton machinery.

In 1859, Mr. Reynolds, at this time part owner and Treasurer of the Hampden Manufacturing Company, built a factory adjacent to the plant on Main Street. This "Rockland" or "New Mill" burned in 1868 and was replaced the following year.

The Hampden Manufacturing Company dissolved in 1869 and Joseph Reynolds purchased the Main Street property and C. W. Holmes and Sons the Bliss Street property.

The Bliss Street factory burned in 1870



Columbia Straw Works, 1884



Reynold's Mill — Main Street

and Dwight W. Ellis purchased the mill privilege and tenements in 1871. He immediately erected a new mill — now known as No. 1 mill — at a cost of \$50,000 and began manufacturing fancy cassimeres. His son, Arthur D. Ellis became a partner in 1877. An 1884 directory states that about 70 persons were employed and 240,000 yards of cloth were produced annually.

This directory also states that about 1200 yards of cloth daily was being produced at Reynolds Main Street factory. Mr. Reynolds and later his two sons, Rice Munn and Theodore ran this mill until about 1901 when Heritage and Hurst and later a Mr. Beach operated the plant. A. D. Ellis purchased this factory from the Reynolds Estate in 1905, and three years later, in 1908, tore down the wooden mill and replaced it with the present brick structure. The dam was also built at this time.

Upon the death of Arthur D. Ellis in 1916, the management of the firm was carried on by his son Dwight W. Ellis II. The business was incorporated under the name of A. D. Ellis Mills Incorporated in 1923 and the properties have been added to from time to time, keeping the mills as modern and up-to-date as possible. The No. 3 mill was enlarged and an oil-fired central power plant constructed on Main Street to supply steam and power for both plants.

A. D. Ellis Mills supplies cloth to such prominent people as the Duchess of Windsor and King Saud of Arabia. A Chrysler car used at the Coronation of Queen Eliza-



Dwight W. Ellis

beth II was upholstered in cloth made especially for it by Ellis Mills, who also make the upholstery for the cars in the White House fleet.

In 1933, A. D. Ellis Mills Incorporated developed a 16 ounce Kersey cloth used by the Marine Corp, West Point, Annapolis and the police force of the city of New York.

The entrance of D. W. Ellis, Jr. into the firm in 1937 marks the fourth generation of the Ellis family to enter the woolen industry in Monson.

Due to changing market conditions, Ellis Mills have entered the apparel wear field and is now manufacturing ladies' fleece-type coating, light weight dress goods, as well as flannels and venetians for men's wear. A mill outlet store, opened in 1959, makes this cloth available to the many "do-it-yourself" sewers in the area.

Harvey White sold the Bliss Street site of his saw and grist mill to the Hampden Cotton Company in 1822. In 1860 Joseph Reynolds built a mill on this site. Seven years later it burned and was rebuilt in 1870. Ellis, Ricketts and Company purchased this mill from the Reynold's estate in 1900. Ricketts and Shaw took over in 1910 and operated the plant until 1933 when the firm dissolved. The buildings have all been torn down.

In the early 1920's Harry N. Atwood, pioneer aviator, moved to Monson and constructed a small factory on the Palmer Road. He had invented a process whereby wood and rubber could be laminated together into

an integral mass and molded into any shape required. Using this process, the Rubwood Wheel Inc. manufactured industrial truck and castor wheels and disk automobile wheels for five or six years before the firm went into bankruptcy.



Army-Navy E Award, February 18, 1943



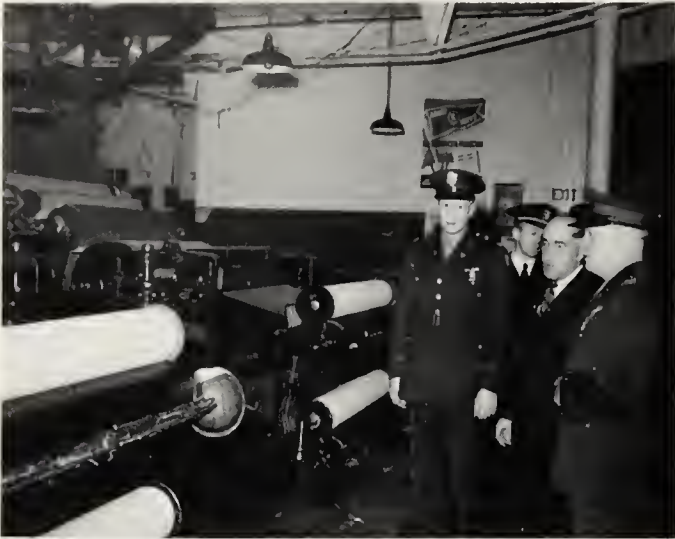
A. D. Ellis Manufacturing Company, No. 3



A. D. Ellis Manufacturing Company, No. 1



D. W. Ellis & Sons Employees



Guests Inspecting one of the Looms

PLASTICS INDUSTRY

The C. F. Church Division of American-Standard was first formed in 1898 at Holyoke, Massachusetts, as the C. F. Church Manufacturing Company, to manufacture brass beds with a revolutionary new finish called "sheet pyroxylin," one of the first commercially adaptable plastics.

Soon other sheet pyroxylin covered products were added to its line, the principal of which was toilet seats. This marked the in-

roduction of white toilet seats to America in place of oak or mahogany varnished seats.

After joining the American-Standard family in 1929 Church purchased the Rubberwood Plant at the North Monson dam on Chicopee Brook and expanded their lines to include other plastic and rubber products in addition to molded toilet seats. These included many items for the plumbing, electrical, machine tool and aircraft industries.

The original Monson plant covered 12,000 square feet and had two office and thirty plant employees. From that beginning it has grown until today the plant covers 100,000 square feet and employs two hundred seventy-five people.

The Monson Plant provides the research and development for new products and processes in plastics for the American-Standard Corporation.

Recently a new process was developed for molding woodflour to make plastic desk tops, seat, and chairbacks for the school furniture industry. Other new products such as table tops, kitchen cabinet parts and furniture components are presently being developed by the same process.

The C. F. Church Division also operates plants in Holyoke, Massachusetts and Brattleboro, Vermont. Executive offices are



Early Church Company Employees

located at Holyoke where President Richard A. Witherell and staff make their headquarters. Sales offices are maintained in principal cities in the United States.

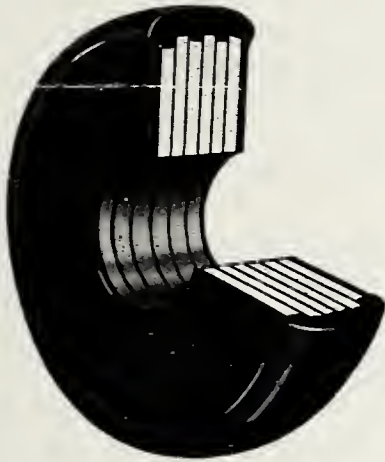
Springfield Moulders Inc. was organized in June of 1947, in the midst of the post-war recession. The first experimental work was produced in the basement of the Rice Fruit Farm in Wilbraham. Dwight W. Ellis, Sr. and Dwight W. Ellis, Jr. were of great help when the company was looking for more permanent quarters and in September of 1947, operations were started in the three-story building owned by A. D. Ellis Mills

Inc., located behind the old hat shop on Cushman Street.

The company was organized to offer engineering and injection molding of plastics to the Springfield area, from which it took its name. The principals felt that there was need for plastic engineering service, as well as to provide facilities for small quantity production.

In addition to "short-run" production, they have specialized in industrial applications and have gained a good reputation for producing products from materials which are difficult to mold.

A few years ago, Springfield Moulders Inc. was one of two molders in the United States that were molding a specific type of polyvinylchloride for television insulators. Continuing their pioneering, the corporation recently produced a special flame retardent



Rubwood Caster



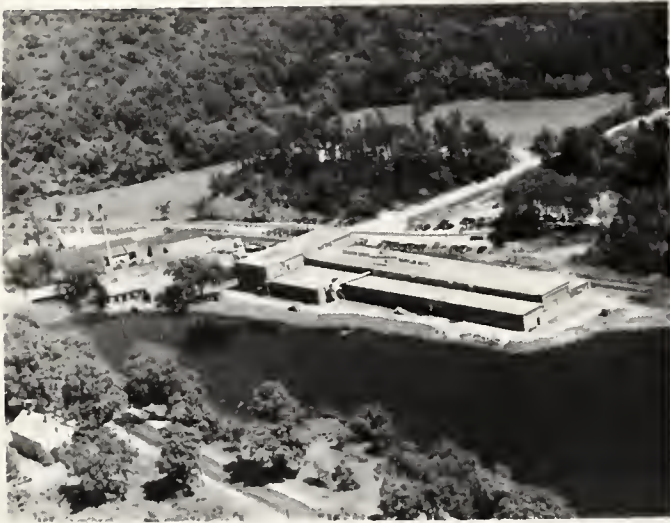
Ricketts & Shaw Woolen Mill



Springfield Moulders Plant

plastic and is one of the few molders in the country to produce parts for the television industry in this new compound.

Due to their steady growth, the company found it necessary to seek larger quarters, and therefore in July 1959 moved into the modern one-story building constructed by William W. Jurczyk, Inc. on the Palmer Road.



C. F. Church Company Plant

Principals of the corporation are: President, Victor E. Rosenlund; Vice President, Gilbert E. Stacy; and Treasurer, Donald T. Snow, Jr.

D. B. WESSON COMPANY, INC.

The D. B. Wesson Company located on Bethany Road Extension was incorporated in 1948. Since the first years of its existence, Daniel Wesson, its founder, has relied upon the able management of Fred Clarkson and Jerry Soukup to operate the shop.

The original idea of this venture was to supply industry with intricate, accurate form tools ordinarily very difficult to produce by toolroom methods. Since the "Crush Form" method of grinding used here lends itself rather well to semi or full production



Crush Grinding Machine



Contract parts form ground by D. B. Wesson Co.

conditions, there was a natural turning toward the screw industry where accuracy of roll threading dies has been in growing demand. There was once a time when industry considered the cut or ground thread the epitomy of accuracy and quality. Now the aircraft and other industries demanding the highest in accuracy and physical qualities specify roll thread screws. The inherent ability to exactly duplicate forms lent itself perfectly to this phase of toolmaking.

Crush form grinding is accomplished through the use of a cylindrically formed crush roll made exactly to the form desired on the work piece to be produced. This roll is supported on super-accurate bearings in direct line with the grinding wheel, which is brought into contact with the roll under controlled pressure. When this pressure exceeds the strength of the abrasive bond of the wheel, particles break away until the grinding wheel ultimately arrives at the shape of the roll. Work pieces are then ground to the exact shape.

Roll thread dies for production of accurate screws are not the only products of the company. Many intricate parts for type-



Roll Thread Dies

writers, turbo superchargers, textile machinery, hand tools, camera and ordnance components, too exacting to be economically manufactured by other methods have been produced by this company, which is uniquely equipped for precision form grinding.

As industry progresses and demands more accurate tools and components for the manufacture of precision equipment necessary to our nationally growing scientific development era, the D. B. Wesson Company will provide sources valuable to its growth.

MONSON SAND AND GRAVEL CORP.

A sand and gravel processing plant was established on the Stafford Road by Edward N. Christianson, Inc., of East Longmeadow in June of 1951.

On January 1, 1956, William B. Thornton of Manchester, Connecticut, purchased the business and established the present Monson Sand and Gravel Corporation which



Monson Sand and Gravel Company

produces washed sand and gravel for Ready-Mix Concrete, the building of roads and drainage projects.

The plant was enlarged and new equipment added to take care of the ever increasing demand for materials. The Monson Corporation supplies Ready-Mix batch plants located in Manchester, Enfield and Eagleville, Connecticut, owned by Mr. Thornton, and also serves the public, state and towns.

Business and Professional

Professional History

MEDICAL

It is evident that the residents of this town have always been privileged to have the services of a doctor available even though information about them is scarce. Without a doubt John Sherman, who lived in the mother town of Brimfield, was Monson's first physician. Records state that his charge for service here was ten shillings—for a vomit, eight pence; and a bleeding, ten pence—these being the usual treatments for many illnesses.

Homeopathy was introduced to Monson by Dr. N. Wheeler Rand in February 1879. Later, his brother, Dr. J. P. Rand, became associated with him. They had a large practice, exemplified exceptional professional ability, and their sterling integrity was greatly respected by the town's citizens and medical associates. After Dr. J. P. Rand moved to Worcester in 1888. Dr. N. Wheeler Rand continued the practice here alone. He served on the school committee for twelve years, wrote many papers both medical and social, and with his brother in 1897 published a small volume of original verse.

Dr. George E. Fuller settled in Monson in 1868. In the latter part of 1879 three well-known physicians, Dr. George E. Fuller of Monson, Dr. George T. Ballard of Hampden, and Dr. W. H. Stowe of Palmer were accustomed to meet together about once a month for discussion of events of more than usual importance in their professional field. They were accompanied by their wives, who, during discussion periods of the doctors, would prepare a supper for the enjoyment of all present.

On February 6, 1880, it was felt that these meetings were valuable, and it was resolved to effect a permanent organization under the name of the Doctors Club of Eastern Hampden. Dr. Fuller was elected as the first President. The good results which followed the early meetings soon spread their influence throughout the profession, and one addition after another gradually extended membership west to the Connecticut and also into the counties adjoining Hampden.

At a meeting held February 10, 1881, "censors" replaced directors and on March 10th of the same year the constitution was amended and the name changed to Eastern Hampden Medical Association. The original

social character of the organization has been maintained to the present day and a dinner is a feature of regular meetings.



Dr. George E. Fuller

Dr. George E. Fuller at his desk. Dr. Fuller, grandfather of Hattie Merchant Noble, was an historian to whom we are indebted for the many accounts of early Monson which he preserved.

Public Health has always been of concern to the townspeople as the following votes recorded on the minutes of town meetings illustrate:

May 18, 1778: "Voted to seet up Enockculation for the smallpox, in one place, under proper restrictions and left with the care of the Selectmen and shall not Exceed the 20th of June next."

September 1, 1778: "Voted to give Abijah Newell six dollars which he paid to Dr. Moffitt for his coming over to Joseph Butlers when he had the smallpox."

November 30, 1792: "Voted Thomas Anderson, Abner Brown and David Hyde be a committy to take care of those that have the smallpox in this town." "Voted Jonathan Chapin's house and Mr. Vena Sabin's house be hospitals together with such other houses as the community shall think sufficient for the convenience of those that now have smallpox."

1731-	John Sherman of Brimfield
?	Abel Sherman, probably grandson of John
1765- ?	Thomas Anderson, surgeon in the Continental Army
1780 ?	Ephraim Allen, on the road above the Meeting House
1785-1818	Joseph Grout

1790-1840	Ede Whitaker, home and office north of Gage Brothers
? -1817	Thaddeus Fairbanks
1817- ?	— Ware
1817-1846	Rheuben Gardner, died in 1850
1820-1852	Oliver McKinstry, built Gage Brothers store in 1832
1836-1838	Bersilla Heyward and Isaac D. Carpenter. Both died of Typhoid Fever within three days of each other
1837- ?	Cullen Carter
? -1838	Chadwick Chaffee, resided on Moulton Hill
1838-1882	Alvan Smith
1840-1856	Marshall Calkins
1840-1862	Henry Cady
1851-1854	David Calkins, brother of Marshall
1856- ?	J. W. Towne
1859-1868	John McKinstry, son of Oliver
1868-1913	George E. Fuller, interested in the history of Monson and many civic movements
1879-1898	Nehemiah Wheeler Rand
1880-1948	Frederick W. Ellis, Occulist and Aurist, noted for his extensive research
1882-1884	Homer Smith, son of Alvan
1883-1888	John Rand
1885-1936	Charles W. Jackson, office and home on site of present dial telephone office
1898-1901	Harry A. Merchant, son-in-law of Dr. G. E. Fuller
1906-1936	Elwyn Capen, office and home on Main Street, member School Committee
1923-1942	Thomas Keeley, office and home on Main Street, State Medical Examiner for fourteen years. Doctors McQuaid, Spillane, Mar- noy, DeFeo, Marinelli and McCormick served for short periods of time
1935-	Benjamin Schneider, office at 115 Main Street.
1946-	Cecelia Bush and James Bush, husband and wife, both doctors, office in the former Hattie Cushman house on Main Street.

MONSON VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

On April 10, 1914, a group of interested women met to plan a clean-up campaign in Monson. Mrs. W. L. Ricketts was chosen chairman. In May 1914, this committee was made permanent with a membership fee of 25¢ annually, school pupils being admitted for 10¢. It was voted that the organization be known as the Monson Improvement Society. The first president was Mrs. F. W. Ellis. "Its object shall be to secure the cooperation of individuals and organizations in everything pertaining to the welfare of the town." (Quoted from the first by-laws.)

On October 5, 1915, plans were made for engaging a District Nurse. The annual report of 1916 lists the name of Miss Thompson as the first nurse. Miss Amber Hammond served in 1917; and Miss Hescock in 1918 made an appeal for funds to start child welfare work. During the Influenza epidemic of October 1918, a nurse was sent by the State to assist the District Nurse. In November 1918, the membership fee was raised to \$1.00 and it remains so today. The vote to purchase the first automobile was made in 1919. At Miss Hescock's suggestion the School Committee accepted the services of the District Nurse as the School Nurse in October 1921.

On January 16, 1922, the name of Monson Visiting Nurse Association was adopted and the following have served as nurses since then: Elsie Bemis McCray, Myrtle Johnson Whitcomb, Harriet Knox Snow, Theresa Roach, Lillian Burgiel Pekala, Kathleen Fleming Donovan and Ruth Hudson. The present nurses are Adele Jurczyk who took Mrs. Hudson's place on January 1, 1957, and Leona Leveille who came to assist her on March 1, 1957.

ATTORNEYS

The first lawyer to settle in Monson was Deodatus Dutton about 1800 to 1805. He served as a Representative to the General Court in 1809-1811 and again in 1818-1819. He was Town Clerk in 1821-1824 and subsequently removed to New York state.

George Bliss, Jr., practiced for a short time about 1816, and Reuben A. Chapman practiced here from 1827 to 1829. Erasmus Norcross, a native of Monson, began practicing law here in 1823, the year he was admitted as a member of the Bar.

George H. Newton settled in Monson about

1872, and opened an office in Green's Block. He later moved to an office near the Memorial Town Hall. Mr. Newton was very interested in Monson and was instrumental in getting many improvements. He served as Town Clerk four years, assessor four years, member of the Board of Selectmen four years. He was a Special Justice of the District Court of Eastern Hampden at the time of his death May 3, 1896.

Charles R. Dudley practiced law in Monson from 1878 to 1882 and Alfred W. Dana from September 1896 to December 1897.

Freelon Q. Ball, who was admitted to the Hampden County Bar on September 28, 1900, occupied the office of Judge Newton on Main Street. He was elected a member of the Massachusetts State Legislature in 1913 and again in 1916, and served as a member of the Water Commissioners and as Town Clerk for many years, as well as serving as Special Justice of the District Court of Eastern Hampden. He passed away in 1938.

Harold Burdick was admitted to the Bar in 1920 and maintained an office at his home on Bethany Road in addition to one in Palmer. He was appointed Associate Justice of the District Court of Eastern Hampden in 1926—at that time the youngest man to have attained that appointment. He passed away in 1940.

William H. Anderson was admitted to the Bar in 1925 and has maintained an office in Monson since that time. He has served as Town Counsel for 32 years and as Moderator 30 years.

Walter Swift, who moved to Monson in 1940, maintains an office at his home on Green Street. Walter Raleigh maintains a Palmer office as well as one at his home on Country Club Heights since 1958. Leslie A. Carpenter, a resident of Brimfield Road for many years, was admitted to the Bar in 1933. He reopened his law office on January 1, 1960, after an absence from the field for many years. Rowland H. Long who purchased the Congregational Parsonage on High Street, is the General Counsel for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company of Springfield.

DENTISTRY

The practice of dentistry as a specialized field did not begin until about 1800. The various functions now attributed to the dentist were performed by the doctor, the barber, the blacksmith and the silversmith.

It was many years before resident dentists

settled in the smaller towns. Traveling dentists would cover a large territory, staying a week or two in each town. Advance notice would appear in the local papers informing the public of the dates and place in which a temporary office would be set up.

There is no positive record of the first dentist to settle in Monson, however Dr. Andrews is mentioned in a news item dated 1879, D. W. Stanton in 1885, and F. W. Bancroft in 1888.

Dr. Perlin W. Soule opened an office in the Sabin house (site of the present Bank Building) on May 22, 1886. He served the town faithfully for fifty-one years, retiring in 1937. Dr. William P. Stone, contemporary of Dr. Soule, practiced dentistry from 1902 until his retirement in 1957.

Doctors A. D. Coleman, V. J. Vosilus and Howard Barber practiced dentistry here for a short time. Dr. Harold Bennett maintained a part-time office in the home of his father, Arthur Bennett, on North Main Street for many years.

Dr. Harvey O. Davey moved to Monson in 1936 and maintained his office until his death in 1960. Dr. Erwin M. Eldridge arrived to open his dental office in August 1955 just as the elements unleashed their fury in the now famous flood. Among his first duties was assisting with the Typhoid Shots administered to the townspeople.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

The first mention of Funeral Directors or Undertakers is the following advertisement from a January 14, 1865, paper:

J. S. Loomis

Household Goods

Coffins and Burial Caskets

In the early days, families looked to the cabinet maker or furniture dealer to furnish an appropriate coffin when need occurred. The cabinet maker also conducted the funeral. The horse-drawn hearse was owned by the town and the carriage was furnished by a livery stable. Bids were accepted by the town for supplying hearse service and a

news clipping dated April 1, 1887, mentions that competition was so great in that year the Selectmen were able to reduce the price from \$2.50 to 99¢ per trip.

The name of Alfred O. White is listed in 1876. In 1894-95 Gray and Lambert are listed as Undertakers and Funeral Directors and could be contacted at Flynt's Store when needed. This same year Ralph F. Bradway also offered his services to the public. He, together with his brother Harry, ran the Bradway Furniture Store at Three Bridge Street. Their father, Marvin Bradway, founded the business in 1891 or 1892.

Coffins gradually changed into caskets with a choice of hardwoods, metals and cloth coverings. One of the finest covers was a broadcloth made in A. D. Ellis Mills in Monson. This is still the finest cloth used. In 1924 the first motorized hearse was brought into Monson by Mr. Bradway.

Francis W. Lombard purchased the Bradway Funeral Home in 1934. Funerals were held from individual homes or from a church until 1936 when the first Funeral Home with all modern facilities, such as display room for caskets, family room and chapel, was made available to the community. Mr. Lombard passed away in 1945 and his wife Mildred obtained her state licenses and still carries on the business. Their son William plans to join the firm this year.

Frank Splaine and Hugo Kuehl opened a Funeral Home on Main Street in the former Rufus Fay house in 1951. The partnership was dissolved in 1958 and Mr. Splaine continues to operate the business.

VETERINARIANS

Dr. Frank Maguire, who resides on Main Street, served as Veterinary Health Officer for Hampshire County for thirty-four years. His work was in the field of the Control of Animal Diseases from which he retired January 1947.

Dr. Stewart Harvey purchased property on the Palmer Road in October 1953 and has since built a modern office building and hospital.

Business History

Business or trade which comprises the buying and selling of both commodities and services has throughout history traveled hand in hand with the settlement of towns. Monson's earliest years of trading are hidden from view by curtains of ignorance. Historians of the town have bypassed with complacent disregard recordings of the humble, everyday world of commerce. Where, from whom, or for what sums purchases of everyday necessities were made was too banal to merit notice when the historians delved and produced.

Since business centers are found where the majority of people locate, it can readily be believed that in the middle of the 18th century there existed at least one store, said to have been maintained by one Freeborn Moulton, on what is now called Moulton Hill Road for in its earliest years following its break from Brimfield the eastern ridge of Monson was the first site of a definite town. At an early date another area, now purely residential, the Silver Street Section, had a community life of its own and a general store is said to have been a trade center for those living in that region. No doubt other sites, long lost, boasted general country stores serving as combined posts for barter and later for retail selling, but of them records cannot be found.

Prior to the eighteen hundreds homemakers were of a necessity almost self-sufficient unto themselves and bartering took the place of buying. As late as the 1840's ledgers such as one kept by a Benjamin D. Smith who ran a harness and leather business in Monson from 1837 to 1877 show a nice balancing on debit and credit sheets by means of trading. Hence in 1839 in the Smith ledger we read that in payment "to repairing halter, to mending tug, to mending harness, and for 1 hold back," Mr. Smith received, "1 bushel potato . . . 34¢, 1 bushel corn . . . 75¢, 2 pumpkins . . . 8¢, 28 Qts. 1 pint milk @ 4¢ - 1.14". The ledgers or cash books kept by Monson storekeepers through the nineteenth century are very interesting from the viewpoint of the current prices of commodities and also because in many the precise beauty of the penmanship speaks eloquently of a day when business was so unhurried that business men took pride in the appearance of their daily recording of sales.

By the time that the heaviest concen-

tration of industry and population had centered in the valley area of Monson, the Moulton Hill and Silver Street sections were outgrown as business sites and merchants established themselves along what is now Main Street. The earliest trading centers of which we have written records were located on the northern end of the main thoroughfare.

As early as 1790 a William Norcross was a prominent merchant doing business in one of Monson's earliest stores which was destined to exist through such successive ownerships as "Norcross and Flynt", "Norcross Co.", "Flynt and Packard", "William Packard and Son", "E. B. Miles" through to a big career around the 1860's under one E. E. Towne, whose name became associated with the building in which this store long existed as "Towne's Block" and was later the same location for the famous Flynt store, which was a leading Monson business well into the twentieth century.

Under the ownership of E. E. Towne this general store became one of the first to utilize the newspaper as a means of advertisement. In the April 3rd, 1869, edition of *The Palmer Journal* Mr. Towne informed the world that he was selling "Paints and Oils cheap enough" and that he had "Goods for Ladies and Gentlemen", "Goods for Farmers, Mechanics, Physicians and Clergymen". From this one advertisement it is learned that he sold "Hats and caps, fertilizers, hardware, farming tools, flour and meal, most kinds of fish, teas, coffee, crock-



TOWNES BLOCK

ery, glasses and stoneware, paperhangings, curtains and mattresses”.

Once the world of advertisement had been discovered, merchant after merchant soon grasped its value and by the 1870's the various newspapers including *The Palmer Journal*, *The Monson Mirror* (started January 1886), *The Monson Herald* (1893) and *The Palmer Register* were bristling with information provided by Monson retailers. Incidentally there was an office of *The Monson Mirror* in 1887 in the Central Block on Main Street. The race was on and reading over the “business cards” and the lengthy advertisements provides an interesting array of facts concerning the merchandise being sold, its costs to the consumer and the changing names as stores came and went.

From the 1860's on Monson entered its boom years with the climax coming in the gay '90's when Monson like the rest of the country reached a high peak in business.

Study of the local newspapers during the 1880's and 1890's yields the most lucrative source of knowledge concerning who the merchants were, where they were located and what they were selling. By this time the business section of Monson had spread southward from the original site on Main Street and near the Congregational Church to extend below the present location of Memorial Town Hall.

Barton's Block, near Towne's Block, was occupied in part by a hall noted principally for its usage as the meeting place for many years of the Day Spring Lodge. However, it housed such stores as “The Monson Boot and Shoe Store” of which George L. Fuller was proprietor. Mr. Fuller was an early advertiser as we read in his April 23d,

1886, advertisement which appears in *The Monson Mirror* when he informs his readers as follows: “I am spending Thursday and Friday in Boston buying goods. Everybody look out for low prices and latest styles of boots, shoes and slippers.” Later in the year he, like many of his fellow retailers of the day, would list prices so that in July of 1886 we read that, “Infants and Children's Shoes originally selling @ 60¢, 75¢ 80¢ and 1.00 are to be closed out @ 50¢”. A year later the same merchant was proudly announcing that his store sold “Ladies all solid Kid Shoes at \$3.00 - every pair warranted”. Also we discovered that men's shoes sold at \$2.50 a pair, if hand sewn at varying prices from \$3.75 to \$6.00, with special low sale prices listed at \$1.50 and \$2.00. Another occupant of Barton's Block was the druggist, W. A. DeMerritt, one of the druggists who retailed in Monson through the earlier years.

Coming down the hill the next business center of size was the Central Block built in 1879 by Alfred Norcross and R. M. Reynolds. This was a three to four story building located just south of the cemetery which adjoins the southern boundary of the Monson High School of today. This important block was a busy mart until 1893 when it



Central Block



Grout's Store, later owned by Eugene Foskit. This is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Morse, 68 Main Street.



Post Office Block replaced the Central Block. This burned March 12, 1945. The Atlantic Filling Station has now been erected on this site.

was destroyed by fire. It housed the Monson Post Office through the '80's and until 1893. Other first floor tenants included: Norcross Brothers Grocery and Hardware Store as well as a Five and Ten Cent Store maintained by the same brothers in the basement of the block, and selling a great variety, as we quote from an advertisement of January, 1886: "Hardware, Smokers' Equipment, Confectionery, Teas and Coffees, Canned Goods, Flour, Grain, Meal and Feed, Crockery and Kitchen Goods". This list is followed by the statement: "Anything that you need to buy we propose to keep". Nor were they the only ones in Central Block with a wide range of wares for sale. Charles Fowler was proprietor of the Central Block Dry Goods Store which sold: "Carpets, Boots, Shoes and Gent's Furnishings — also Yard Goods, Hosiery, Gloves and Underwear". Other interesting items with their prices listed include such things as Boy's Pants for 75¢, Men's Pants for 85¢, a Carriage Duster for 75¢, a Good, Unlaundered Shirt for 42¢, Reversible Paper Collars for 20¢, a good umbrella for 50¢ and Ladies' Electric Gossamers for \$1.00.

A pharmacy maintained by G. L. Keeney advertised wares other than those common to a Druggist such as "Stationery" and "Fancy Goods" while doing business in this same Central Block. The second floor of the Central Block was a center for garment making as evidenced by the advertisements of a Mrs. L. A. Abby, who was termed a "Fashionable Dressmaker" of the period and by the self-styled "Artist-Taylor", Matthew Connolly, who informed the town: "I will make you a nobby spring suit as low as the lowest" (and we must hope he refers to price only, here) in the April 23rd, 1886, edition of "The Monson Mirror".

Nor was this Central Block only a center for business activities. It contained on



Monson, Mass., as it was in 1860

its third floor an auditorium known as Central Hall which had a capacity of eight hundred and whose stage provided an excellent setting for theatricals.

Farther south along Main Street were several smaller business blocks. Curley's Block on the corner of Main and Lincoln Streets was principally famed for the livery stable maintained by John Curley in the '90's. Also situated here at that time was the druggist, Harlow Chapin, as well as two business ladies who were favorites with Monson's fair sex since they engaged in the millinery, dressmaking and fancy goods lines. Their names were Mrs. S. J. Comey and Mrs. S. J. Needham.

Next to this block was the Munn Block which was best known as the location of the Gage Brothers Store who carried on a long and honorable career as grocers and who specialized in such delicacies as fresh oysters in addition to the regular line of groceries which included "the best coffee you can buy" selling at 5 pounds for \$1.50 as well as such canned goods as Libby, McNeill's and Libby's corned beef at the startling sum of twenty cents a can. Other occupants of the Munn Block during its most prosperous years included a general store called the Granite One Price Store and the H. E. Aldrich Livery and Feed Stable whose business card stated that they were ready to provide "Carriages for Weddings and Funerals as a Specialty".



Interior of Gage Bros. Store — clerks, John Murray and David Needham.

Other than the Curley and Munn Blocks there were such business locations south of Lincoln Street as the Noble Block, which long housed a bakery shop for many years under the proprietorship of the Butler

Brothers during the 1880's and existed prosperously through the management of Herman Markus well into the fourth decade of the twentieth century. Another important store in this same area was that of Powers and Pendergast which was in its early career named "People's Market". Pendergast's Store was an early exponent of service. They advertised that orders would be called for and delivered free of charge. In later years this store housed one of the three ice-cream parlors active in Monson, the other two being that of Charles Squier in Central Market and another located in the basement of Green's Block where James Curley held sway.

During this same period the residents of the southern part of the town were able to buy supplies at several stores maintained in that area. M. K. O'Brien advertised such items as dry and fancy goods, staple and family groceries, cigars and notions. Mr. O'Brien, father of Katherine Markus, operated his store from his house at 252 Main Street.

Rogers & Co. operated a general store located just north of A. D. Ellis No. 3 Mill. Meats could be purchased in the basement. A third store in the south section was situated on the corner of Bliss and Main Streets. Harrison Howe was an early grocer here, and Delmore Pease's "Ye Old Corner Store" succeeded him.

Aside from the concentrated areas

along Main St., Monson has had many businesses catering to current developments. Monson had an admirable artist-businessman in the person of A. N. Gaouette whose photography work was of long duration—from the 1880's well into the 1930's. Marvin Bradway combined a prosperous undertaking business with the sales of such commodities as Furniture, Pianos, Organs and Sewing Machines. When laundries were very much in their infancy Monson boasted one in the rear of the Flynt Store which specialized in "Family Washing at reduced rates" and whose proprietor, M. S. Taylor, advocated the patronage of "Home Industry" in his advertisements as early as 1887, which was evidently a reaction to a merchant named George L. Jenks who had an agency for the Palmer Steam Laundry connected with his general merchandise store located in the Central Block.

Coal dealers were lively when wood was no longer the chief medium for heating homes as is manifested by the activities of such men as Mark Noble, Ralph Clifford, A. Squier and O. C. McCray.

New inventions were not without dealers in Monson for the Agency System was widely used. As early as 1897 F. E. Cady was local representative for an early typewriter, the Hammond, which cost from \$50.00 to \$100.00. In the early day of the bicycle Charles R. Buffington at Green Street was selling the Liberty Bicycle for \$150.00



Gage Brothers Store — this building was taken down in 1956.



Established in 1874 by Arba Squier. This is the oldest business establishment still selling the same lines of merchandise and using the same name. Frank Haley is the present proprietor.

(the Warwick model) and lesser models for \$115.00, while a boy's model sold for \$50.00. Still another new device being sold by a local man was the Wilson Sewing Machine which was put into many Monson homes by their agent, Charles Merrick. These are but few of the commodities handled for large business houses in Monson via a local representative.

One commercial enterprise, based on the agency system, which has played an important part in the past two centuries of Monson's history is insurance. The Hartford Fire Insurance Company was but ten years old when Rufus Flynt, pioneer of Monson's Granite Industry, wrote the company's first insurance in Monson. A record exists of insurance written by Mr. Flynt in 1821 to



F. E. Howe's delivery wagons outside store in south part of Green's Hall.

cover the Hampden Cotton Manufacturing Company mill and contents, on Main Street where Ellis Mill No. 3 now stands. Disastrous fires soon demonstrated the need for the new insurance in homes and in infant industries. Mr. Flynt's agency business grew and passed on to other owners such as Timothy Packard, Edward F. Morris, G. W. Farrington and Rufus Fay. In 1920, this,

the earliest insurance agency in the town, was acquired by Freelon Q. Ball, and is now carried on by his son, Carlos H. Ball, making it one of the oldest businesses in continual practice in Monson.



Monson House — built in 1872 by Leonard G. Cushman. Robbins and Shaw purchased it in 1880. It changed hands rapidly until 1896 when William Foley purchased the hotel. Shortly after 1900 this building was torn down to make way for the Monson Academy dormitory — Cushman Hall.

The business history of Monson over the two hundred years of its existence has been a continuous flux and flow; merchants have come and gone and stores have changed hands frequently from as early as the 1880's until recent days. It has been truthfully said that in the 1890's anyone could buy anything he needed in the local stores and did so. This generated a cycle of supply and demand which made the town most prosperous for its merchants who thought nothing of long hours of work for themselves and their help. During the middle 1880's we know that the stores were open evenings until late since advertising to close Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 during the months of July and August was considered a surprising innovation.

In *The Monson Mirror* of July 8, 1887, there appeared an account of "The Grocery Clerk" and this is what we read was expected of such a retail clerk at that time: "He must be up by daylight which in the winter appears at 4 or 5 o'clock and usually does not finish his work until 9:30 at night. During all this time he is never idle. Junior Clerks receive \$2.00 a week and board, while those more experienced get \$4. or \$5. a week and board. Fourteen to eighteen hours a day is his usual working day."

From such accounts it is clearly seen that Monson's early merchants were con-

secreated to their tasks of supplying Monson consumer needs as they did so capably through all the years.



The Bungalow Shop — a Tea Room at 82 Main Street, now the home of Mrs. Gladys Belville.



Old Main Street View



Anderson's Barber Shop, located in the south side of store now operated by Elmer McCleary at 150 Main Street. The barbers are William Anderson and John Crowley. Bill Carroll is waiting his turn at the left.

BANKS

In early years, Hartford, Connecticut was the banking town for Monson manufacturers, and later Springfield. Because of increased business demanding bank facilities, the project of establishing a local bank was actively canvassed in 1853. The charter was granted for the Monson Bank on March 28, 1854, the bank to be located on Main Street, and within 200 rods south of the center meeting house.

The original capitalization was \$150,000, of which more than half was subscribed in Monson. Many sites were suggested but the Merrick and Fay's blacksmith shop lot on the corner of Main and State Streets was finally agreed upon and a small granite building erected there.

The bank opened for business October 1, 1854, in temporary quarters in the ell of the dwelling house of Albert Norcross north of the Congregational Church, and moved to its permanent quarters in the spring of 1855. When the bank was less than ten years old, and before the movement began which afterward became general, the question of reorganization under the national system came up for consideration. This period of the Civil War was a stormy one with mixed feeling regarding the Federal Government.

At a stockholders meeting held August 3, 1864, the following vote was passed: "That it is expedient for this bank to reorganize under the national banking law." This was not a unanimous decision, as one stockholder sold his shares before leaving the room and another gave his to members of his family predicting their future worthlessness.

In 1872, a charter for a local savings bank having been obtained, application was made in its behalf to the National Bank, that for convenience and economy's sake the new institution might have its office with that of the National. For twenty-one years the two corporations occupied the same till, vault, counter and banking rooms without differences arising between them or suspicion, so far as is known, that such close company resulted in any other than mutual advantage.

With business steadily growing and with changes in the laws relative to the separation of Savings and Commercial Banks, the incorporators of the Monson Savings Bank chose a building committee to furnish a suit-

able building for banking and other purposes. On June 1, 1893, the new quarters at 142-144 Main Street were opened for business. The Monson National Bank moved into the north half of the new building.

On December 8, 1950, the Monson National Bank merged into the Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Company which continues to operate its Monson Branch from the same location. As a result of this merger, facilities heretofore unavailable in a small

town bank are now offered to the residents of Monson. The Advisory Board of the Monson Branch includes Joseph E. Avella, Bert P. Anderson, Sherwood L. Young, and the Manager, Normand A. Laflamme.

Present officers of the Monson Savings Bank include: President, William H. Anderson; Vice Presidents, John P. Moriarty and Carlos C. McCray; Clerk, Omer E. Bradway; Treasurer, John D. Aldrich; Assistant Treasurers, Hazel B. Hey and Edward Koziowski.

Early Businesses

Auctioneers—

Bert Leach Palmer Road

Barbers—

Wm. H. Anderson Main Street
Elmer Belding Main Street
John Crowley Main Street
Tony Jacobs Main Street
Raymond Mumford Main Street

Beauty Parlors—

Antoinette Pincince Green Street
Louise Pincince Oak Street
Dolly Senecal Main Street

Blacksmiths—

George Aldrich North Main Street
Peck Brothers Cedar Swamp
Joseph Chataneau Bliss & Hampden Rd.

Carpenters—

James Duncan Ely Road
Julius Graves Pease Ave.
Julius Stewart Stewart Ave.

Carriage Makers—

C. H. Martin Mechanic Street

Contractors—

W. Lloyd Moulton Palmer Road

Creameries—

Monson Creamery Palmer Road
Horace Moulton, William Moulton,
and F. Q. Ball, Proprietors

Dairies—

Elmer Stebbins, Stebbins' Farms Margaret Street
John Carew Stafford Road
Eugene Foskit, Monson Milk Co. Belmont Ave.
Lester Stebbins Reimers Road
Alva Walker East Hill
Harry Sutcliffe East Hill
Rufus Stebbins East Hill

Dry Goods—

Todd's Main Street
Neilson's Main Street
A. R. Brown Main Street

Druggists—

Bert P. Anderson Main Street
Frank Chapman Main Street
George L. Keeney Main Street

Fruit Stores—

Anthony Jacobs Main Street
Alonzo Sieron Main Street
Luigi DePace Main Street
King's Fruit Main Street

Furniture—

Salvatore Smiraglia Cushman Street
Ralph F. Bradway Bridge Street

Grocers—

King and Meacham North Main Street
A. M. Mumford Harrison Ave.
A. H. Phillips Main Street
John Murphy and George Meacham,
Managers

Ice Dealers—

Sam Closson Margaret Street
Bert Smith South Monson
Will Moulton North Monson
Lloyd Moulton North Monson
Judson Calkins Upper Stafford Road

Jewelers—

Fred Marsden Main Street
Robert Taylor Main Street
Frank Bills Main Street
George E. Grout Main Street

Laundries—

Chinese Laundry Main Street
Orcutt's Steam Laundry Harrison Ave.
Whittemore's Across from Cemetery Arch
White Star Laundry Across from Cemetery Arch
Frank Sutcliffe
Herman Pinand State Street
Donald Dixon State Street

Liveries—

Merrill Carew South Main Street
George Cushman Harrison Ave.
Ralph Clifford North Main Street
William Foley Main Street
Alfred Norcross Cushman Street
George Flynt Century Hotel

EARLY BUSINESSES (Continued)**Masons—**

Fred Anderson	Margaret Street
William Lewis	Bethany Road
C. A. Sweet	State Street
Curt Rounds	State Street

Meat Markets—

John Dalton	Cor. Washington & Main Sts.
Benjamin Maynard	Norcross Block
Thomas Haley	Main Street
D. H. Barnes	Main Street

Men's Clothing—

E. J. Lyons	Noble Block
J. P. Herlihy	Main Street

Millinery—

Misses Gavin Site of Brown's Drug Store
 Mary Roche Jette
 Formerly at site of Margaret's Shop

Monumental Works—

Orman L. Grindell	Green Street
Moran Monumental	So. Main Street

Painters—

Ed Osborne	Main Street
Irving Crosby	East State Street
Elmer E. Thompson	Green Street
Elmer Pease	Stafford Road
Frank Sutcliffe	State Street
Joe Hickey	

Plumbing—

John Thacker	Main Street
Cornelius Leary	Main Street
Ray Aldrich	Belmont Ave.
Edmund Heneault	Cushman Street

Photographers—

Joe Chandler	Main Street
A. N. Gaouette	
	Corner of Washington-State Street
H. LeRoy Moffett	Main Street

Restaurants—

Henry Johnson	Palmer Road
Steve Cireagis	Main Street
Hi-Neighbor	Main Street

Tailors—

Matthew Connelly	Main Street
Michael Lynch	Main Street
Dominick Barrett	Main Street

Tree Merchant—

Black and White Tree Co.	Palmer Road
Carroll and Pierce, Prop.	

1960

Business Directory

Automobile Dealers—

COLLETON'S

FORD SALES, INC.

John V. Colleton, Jr., Prop.

1911

1960

O. C. McCray

C. C. McCray

McCRAY'S GARAGE

40 CUSHMAN ST.

MONSON, MASS.

NEW — CARS — USED

"C" McCray for Chevrolet

SQUIER'S GARAGE, INC.

Chrysler Corporation Dealer for

Chrysler, Plymouth and
 Valiant Motor Cars

ESTABLISHED 1922

By Robert K. Squier

Sold to James H. Rathbone 1950

WALKER

MOTOR SALES, INC.

CHEVROLET • OLDSMOBILE

PALMER, MASS.

Banks—

Monson Savings Bank

146 Main St., Monson, Mass.

Banking Hours Monday through Friday 9 to 3

AIR CONDITIONED FOR YOUR COMFORT

INCORPORATED 1872

OFFICERS

William H. Anderson, President
John P. Moriarty and Carlos C. McCray
Vice-Presidents
Omer E. Bradway, Clerk
John D. Aldrich, Treasurer
Assistant Treasurers
Hazel B. Hey and Edward A. Kozikowski

Monson Branch

**Springfield Safe Deposit
and Trust Company**

MONSON, MASS.

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Barber Shops—

**HARLEY'S
BARBER SHOP**

ESTABLISHED 1932

1938 - 1960

**FRANK'S
BARBER SHOP**

Frank Plescia, Prop.

28 Harrison Avenue

**PETE'S
BARBER SHOP**

180 Main Street

Hair Cuts—Children 1.25, Adults 1.50

1956 Peter Swistak, Prop.

Beauty Shops—

**ELEANOR'S
BEAUTY SALON**

Mrs. John J. Lynch, Prop.

4 Green Street, Monson, Mass.

Specializing in

Permanent Waves—Hair Styling—Hair Cutting

ESTABLISHED 1939

**PAT'S
BEAUTY SHOPPE**

252 Main St., Monson, Mass.

FIRST IN FASHION

Pat Provost, Prop.

**RITA'S
BEAUTY SHOP**

Rita Davis & Theresa Pikul

Open Every Evening Except Saturday

5 Bliss Street, Monson

1959 — 1960

Bowling Alley—

Compliments of the

MONSON BOWLING ALLEYS

64 Main Street, Monson, Mass.

Builders—

E. V. BRIDGES

GENERAL
CONTRACTOR

Monson, Mass.

COSTA BUILT HOMES

H. P. Costa
General Contractor

Monson, Mass.

HOWARD L. HATCH

Builder • Painter

Wales Road, Monson, Mass.

Telephone COlonial 7-3286

Building • Remodelling

R. J. HUTCHINSON

CUSTOM BUILDER

KITCHEN CABINETS

Monson, Mass.

1932

— 1960

MEURRISE BROTHERS

Stafford Road

BUILDING MATERIALS

SQUIER & CO., INC.

ESTABLISHED 1874

COAL — LUMBER — HEATING OILS

5 Squier Ave., Monson, Mass.

Operated by Frank B. Haley

L. J. SKOMRO

Monson, Mass.

CONTRACTOR

• BUILDER •

Clubs—

**MONSON
LIONS CLUB**

Devoted to Eye Research
Conservation and Community
Development Projects.

**QUABOAG
COUNTRY CLUB**

**MONSON
ROTARY CLUB**

Chartered 1939

Contractors—

ROBERT J. COOLONG

EXCAVATING CONTRACTOR

Excavating — Grading — Trenching
Power Shovel — Winch Truck — Dump
Trucks — Well Digging — Septic Tank Installation

FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE

JAMES J. MORAN

CONTRACTOR

Wales Road, Monson, Mass.

Dairies—

1926
East Hill

1960
Margaret St.

MILK — CREAM — BUTTER — EGGS

**KORAN BROTHERS
DAIRY**

ALL OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS

Monson, Mass.

For "Goodness Sake" Drink Milk

ESTABLISHED 1938

**TWIN MAPLE
DAIRY FARM**

Hasenjager Brothers, Props.

Deliveries in Brimfield, Hampden,
Monson, Palmer and Wilbraham.

VAILL'S DAIRY

Monson, Mass.

Tel. CH 5-7273

"Quality and Service"

Complete Line of Dairy Products & Fresh Eggs
Refrigerated to Your Door

FORMERLY CARPENTER'S DAIRY

Dentist—

Compliments of

Erwin M. Eldridge, D.M.D.

235 Main Street

Die Cutting—

**D. B. WESSON CO.,
INC.**

Bethany Road Extension

Daniel B. Wesson, Founder — 1948

Products:

Ground Roll Threading Dies

Contract Crush Form Grinding

Doctors—

Compliments

Benjamin Schneider, M.D.

115 Main Street, Monson, Mass.

Druggists—

YALE H. BROWN

128 Main Street, Monson, Mass.

Founded January 1, 1946

DRUGS

BIOLOGICALS

PRESCRIPTIONS

TIRRELL PHARMACY

115 Main Street, Monson

Modern PRESCRIPTIONS give you longer life

Electrical—

ADOLPH S. JURCZYK

41 Pease Ave.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Engineering—

**YAHN ENGINEERING
& Sales Company, Inc.**

293 South Main Street, Palmer, Mass.

Telephone ATlas 3-8384

Tube Fittings and Hose

Automation Components for Lubrication

Hydraulic — Pneumatic Circuits

Excavating—

Phone CO 7-3454 Stafford Road, Monson, Mass.

RALPH MOULTON, JR.

EXCAVATING SERVICE

LANDSCAPING — LAND CLEARING

BULLDOZING — CELLAR DIGGING

Grains—

**EASTERN STATES
FARMER'S EXCHANGE,
INC.**

Founded in 1918

Monson farmers were among the first members of
this agricultural marketing and purchasing
association.

Filling Stations—

DAN'S MOBIL SERVICE

WRECKER..SERVICE

Tires — Batteries — Accessories A.L.A.

2 Main Street, Monson, Mass.

ERNIE'S GULF SERVICE

Tires, Accessories — General Repairs

141 Main Street, Monson

Compliments of

AL'S ESSO SERVICE

246 Main Street, Monson

ALBERT COOLONG

LeROY'S ATLANTIC SERVICE STATION

Tires — Batteries — Accessories

122 Main Street

Leroy Shorette, Jr., Prop.

1953

1960

MANZI'S SERVICE STATION



Established 1944

Boston Road

Monson

Florists—

MONSON FLOWER SHOP AND GREENHOUSE

32 Main Street

Formerly William H. Pease, Florist
(1903-1938)

Serving the People of Monson and vicinity for a
total of 57 years.

Cut Flowers, Plants and Floral Designs

Owned and Operated by Louise and Elmer Leab
Since 1938

Fruits—

HOME OF

ECHO HILL ORCHARD

Wilbraham Road

Alexander and Janice Mushenko and Sons

APPLES • PEACHES • PEARS • PLUMS
CIDER MILL

Established 1945

MORNINGBROOK PLANTATION

Cultivated Blueberry Plants
and Berries Available

Bessie B. Winter

Upper Hampden Road, Monson, Mass.

Fire Dept.—

Compliments of

MONSON FIRE DEPT.

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL

COlonial 7-3160

Funeral Homes—

**LOMBARD
FUNERAL HOME**

3 Bridge Street, Monson, Massachusetts

FRANCIS W. LOMBARD

Successor to Ralph F. Bradway in 1934

Owned and Operated by
Mildred L. Lombard since 1945

**SPLAINE
FUNERAL HOME**

103 Main Street, Monson, Mass.

Telephones

MONSON—CO 7-3113

PALMER—AT 3-3171

—— 1 9 5 1 ——

Sales—

**FULLER BRUSH
DEALER**

Norman F. Tworek

ATlas 3-3300

Palmer, Mass.

Gas—

**THE
HOME GAS CORP.**

“The Better Bottled Gas Service”

AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS
THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND

Bulk Service

Cylinder Service

Hospital Rd.

North Monson

General Stores—

Compliments of

**Your A&P Managers
and Clerks****BRESSETTE'S
SUPER MARKET
AND PACKAGE STORE**

“Where Friends and Neighbors Meet”

WELCOME..TO..MONSON

Stop in and see us at

**CENTRAL
MARKET**

174 Main Street

Gene Bragiel

**McCLEARY'S
GENERAL STORE**

COINS—STAMPS and ACCESSORIES

We Have a Limited Quantity of 1760—1960
Bicentennial Commemorative Medals at 1.00 each

PLACE YOUR ORDER EARLY

1947

—

1960

Monson Consumers Cooperative, Inc.

Established 1945

III Main St.

Monson

VAL MONTE FARM COUNTRY STORE

Famous for our Bar-B-Que Chicken

S. S. PIERCE FANCY GROCERIES
FINE COLD CUTS, FANCY SALADS

—GIFT BOXES AND BASKETS—

Palmer Road

Monson

"YE OLDE CORNER STORE"

1922 — 1956
Joseph Sieron, Prop.
1956 — 1960
Leonard Sieron, Prop.

297 Main Street

MEATS, VEGETABLES & GROCERIES

Hardware—

GIFTS

HARDWARE

PAINTS

HARRY THORIN CO.

"The Store With the Clock"
EST. 1940

176 Main St., Monson, Mass.

MILDE & SONS

AUTO WRECKING

Corner Stafford Rd. & Oak St.

USED AUTO PARTS

EST. 1956

Insurance—

CARLOS H. BALL INSURANCE

214 Main St., Monson



An agency providing sound
insurance continuously since 1821.

INSURANCE



ROBERT W. CURTIS

100 Main St... Monson- Mass.

REAL ESTATE

Frederick J. Sullivan Insurance Agency

ESTABLISHED 1931

All Forms of General Insurance

11 Green Street, Monson, Massachusetts

Tel. COlonial 7-3791

Laundries—

1920

1960

PEERLESS LAUNDERERS

DRY CLEANING CRAFTSMEN

"Let Our Telephone Line Be Your Clothesline"

Warren Cresswell

Lawyer—

William H. Anderson

Moderator and Corporation
Counsel
Since 1928

Monuments—

EZIO DE SANTIS

Granite, Marble and Bronze Memorials

Margaret Street, Monson, Mass.

Quality — Craftsmanship

Oil—

**LEONARD
OIL COMPANY**

MOBILHEAT MOBILKEROSENE

FUEL OIL BUDGET PLAN
POWER BURNER SERVICE

Specialty Shops—

It's always a pleasure to serve you at

MARGARET'S SHOP

225 Main St., Monson

SALES — SERVICE
Washers — Dryers — Refrigerators
Freezers — Ranges

NORCROSS APPLIANCE

NORGE—EASY—PHILCO—BENDIX

36 Main Street, Monson, Mass.

C. F. Norcross

Package Stores—

**CROWLEY'S
PACKAGE STORE**

21 Main Street, Monson

Colonial 7-9761

**MONSON
PACKAGE STORE, INC.**

Wines — Liquors — Beer

LOW IN SPIRITS?—CALL CO 7-5518

1 Cushman St., Monson, Mass.

Plastic Products—

CHURCH SEATS

"The Best Seat in the House"

**C. F. Church Division
American-Standard**

MONSON, MASS.

HOLYOKE, MASS.

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

CONGRATULATIONS

from one of Monson's new industries

**SPRINGFIELD MOULDERS,
INC.**

Established June 1947

Plumbing—

Heating—All Types Plumbing
Electrical Appliances

**T. O. ALIENGENA
& SONS**

"Master Plumber"

ESTABLISHED MAY 1930

140 Main St., Monson, Mass.

WILLIAM J. MORSE

PLUMBING & HEATING

68 Main St.

Master Lic. #6610

ESTABLISHED 1959

**STANLEY PLUMBING
& HEATING SERVICE**
OIL BURNER SALES & SERVICE

Stanley Kluceski, Proprietor

372 Main St.

MAR HEATING CO.

343 Main Street

Palmer, Mass.

SHEET METAL WORK

Printing—

BLATCHLEY'S

PRINTING • MIMEOGRAPHING

Stafford Hollow Road

Monson

PALMER REGISTER, INC.

Publishers of

MONSON REGISTER

QUALITY PRINTING

Tel. ATlas 3-8393 and 3-8394

Railroads—

Compliments of the

**CENTRAL VERMONT
RAILWAY, INC.**

Real Estate—

LAKE PARADISE

Large Restricted Home Sites

Summer and Winter Residents

GROVER C. EATON

Monson, Massachusetts

1932

—

1960

Compliments of

**THE STRUM
REALTY SERVICE**

Gertrude C. Strum

Monson, Massachusetts

Brimfield Road

Restaurants—

JOE'S DRIVE-IN

TASTY SNACKS OF ALL KINDS

TABLES AND BOOTHS

ORDERS TO TAKE OUT

Boston Road

North Wilbraham

Compliments of

LAFOND BROS. STEAK HOUSE

Monson, Mass.

In keeping with the Traditions & Decor of
BI-CENTENNIAL MONSON

THE SPINNING WHEEL RESTAURANT

Austin Hills, Proprietor

Centrally Located next to Post Office

PURVEYORS OF APPETIZING FOODS
SERVED IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

Rest Home—

Compliments of

BUCKWELL REST HOME

Miss Mary H. Cantwell, Director
300 Main Street

1956

1960

Rope Splicing—

DANIEL O'CONNOR

Wire Rope — Splicing

Long Endless Splicing

Slings — Pressed Fittings

Socketing

48 Bethany Road, Monson, Mass.

Sand & Gravel—

MONSON SAND & GRAVEL CORP.

Stafford Road, Monson

Select Quality

Washed Concrete & Mason Sand
Washed, Screened & Crushed Gravel

Black Top Driveway — Parking Lot
Sand — Gravel — Loam

CHARLES H. CHAFFEE

Rental — Graded — Rollers — Dump Trucks

18 Mechanic Street
Monson, Mass.

Schools—

MONSON ACADEMY

Founded 1804

Thorough college preparation for boys.

Grades 8-12. Catalogue on request.

George E. Rogers, Headmaster

Television—

Compliments of

Johnson's Television & Radio Sales & Service

250 Main St., Monson

Trucking—

ROBBINS TRUCKING, INC.

Monson, Mass.

Utilities—

**WORCESTER COUNTY
ELECTRIC COMPANY**

New England Electric System

465 North Main Street

Palmer, Mass.

**New England Telephone
and Telegraph Company**

**PALMER MOTOR COACH
SERVICE, INC.**

“CHARTER BUSES”

Palmer, Mass.

Contractor

William W. Jurczyk, Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

16 OAK STREET

MONSON

Welding—

MONSON REPAIR SHOP

Tom Smart, Prop.

WELDING

“FLYING A” GAS & OIL

Palmer Road, Monson, Mass.

Woolen Manufacturing

**A. D. ELLIS
MILLS, INC.**

Plants on Main and
Bliss Streets

Auctioneer—

Robert E. Chaffee

“YOUR CHEERFUL AUCTIONEER”

PALMER ROAD

MONSON

Monson State Hospital

Monson State Hospital, the ninth largest hospital in the state and the only Epileptic Hospital in New England, had a very humble beginning.

The potato famine which began about 1847 in Europe was responsible to a great extent for large numbers of people migrating to the United States. They brought little money and few worldly goods with them and soon were dependent upon charity for their daily existence. In 1851 about 10,267 people applied to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for aid at a cost to the state of \$212,000.

The Legislature, becoming concerned with this situation, voted to establish three institutions within the state where, according to an 1852 edition of the *Palmer Journal* "all the paupers not having a settlement in the state shall be placed, to be clothed, sheltered, fed, tasked and disciplined in accordance with rules and principles to be established by the authorities."

There was much rivalry among the towns, each endeavoring to have their town chosen for the location of the alms houses, and much interest was shown in this area when the Commissioners purchased the 155 acre farm of Gideon Merrick and 20 adjoining acres from Mr. Fay for a cost of \$6000. Work was begun immediately on the main building designed to house the Superintendent's family in an apartment in the front, accommodations for 700 paupers, hospital, physicians room, chapel, school and work rooms with the cellars housing the kitchens, laundry and storage.

Dr. S. D. Brooks of South Hadley was appointed Superintendent at a salary of \$1000 per year. He assumed his duties on April 1, 1854, and the first paupers arrived on May 1st.

The First Report of the Inspectors of the State Almhouse at Monson, December, 1854 discloses the following facts:

"Number admitted from May 1 to December 1, 1854, was 723, (458 Males and 265 Females). 268 were natives of Ireland, 79 from England and Scotland, 19 from other foreign countries, 82 from other states of the union and 275 were natives of Massachusetts. The Physicians report notes that 310 were unhealthy at time of admission, 40 died during this period and there were 14 births.

A chaplain has been provided, viz., the Rev. Mr. Wright, who preaches and conducts the devotional exercises in the chapel each Sabbath, superintends Sabbath School in the afternoon and conducts the devotional exercises of the inmates every morning. Ample provision has been made for the instruction and education of those of suitable age by a supply of school books, and the establishment of a school, which is regularly kept twice a day, viz., in the morning and in the afternoon. Mr. H. W. Stickney is the principal teacher and Mrs. Weston assistant. Number belonging to the school is 175, average number attending, about 150.

BILL OF FARE

Dinner: Monday and Thursday, beef soup and potatoes; Tuesday and Friday, fish, potatoes and gravy; Wednesday and Saturday, pork, beans, and potatoes; Sunday (dinner and supper) cold pork and beans and tea.

Breakfast: bread and coffee and milk (meat hash or pork and beans for those who labor.)

Supper: bread and chocolate and milk.

Nursery Children: Breakfast, dinner and supper: bread and milk (meat or fish for older ones sometimes.)

Infants: milk and crackers.

Sick: rice, molasses, coffee, tea, gruel, beef tea, mutton, steak, chicken, cream toast.

Financial Statement:

Cash received from Commonwealth	\$29,512.17
Cash received from all other sources	205.18
	<hr/>
	\$29,717.35

Expenses:	
Provisions	5,799.47
Groceries	1230.05
Clothing & dry goods	3,246.36
Medicine	736.20
Fuel & Oil	2,339.16
Furniture	1,409.17
Wages & Labor	2,829.56
Farm Stock & Impliments	3,083.12
Books & Stationary	362.12

Expense (hay, grain, soap, sand,
brooms, traveling expenses &
sundries 3,120.49

Building (New building designed for a
wood-house and for inmates of
such character as should be kept
apart from the rest. Also includes
new barn-shed, yard, drains,
privies, sinks, enclosing fence,
other fixtures, wells, grading, blinds,
bells, lightening rods, etc. 7,191.81

Total expenses \$29,547.51

Cash on hand 169.84

\$29,717.35

Inventory on hand \$11,886.43

Cost of supporting institution from
May 1 to December 1 (Expenses—
less building and inventory of
hand) 10,789.27

Average number of inmates 354

Cost per week 352.92

Cost of each inmate per week \$0.99 7/10

Inspectors: Josiah Hooker, Alvin
Smith, Alonzo V. Blanchard

In 1855 the name was changed to the
State Farm School. Gradually other changes
took place. The adults were transferred to
other institutions and Monson became the
center for housing and educating the chil-
dren who were wards of the state. During
this period the name State Primary School
was adopted. The Gazeteer of Massachusetts



Roy Rogers entertains at the Hospital. Left to right:
Dale Evans, Roger Osterheld, M.D., Bernice Vennert,
R.N.

lists 406 pupils and 30 teachers and assis-
tants at the close of the year of 1872. The
Legislative policy regarding children in the
custody of the state was revised in 1887
when the system of placing such children
in foster homes was adopted.

The State Legislature established the
Massachusetts Hospital for Epileptics in
1898, utilizing the grounds and facilities of
the State Primary School. The first Super-
intendent, Dr. Owen Copp, was allowed
\$200,000 to build an administration building,
a men's hospital and a woman's hospital. A
quarry was opened on the hill nearby to
get out stone for the foundation. All of



Carolyn Clark directs an occupational therapy class in sewing.

these buildings are still in use. Dr. Copp, however, exceeded his appropriation by \$10,000 and as a result was dismissed.

Only three men have held the office of superintendent since then: Dr. Everett Flood 1899-1924. Dr. Morgan B. Hodskins 1924-1946; Dr. Roger G. Osterheld 1946 to the present time. These records speak highly of their administrative ability.

Monson State Hospital has forged steadily forward, both in physical size and in concept of caring for the patients. The five or six original buildings on 175 acres were designed to accommodate about 200 patients. The treatment was for the most part merely custodial with little attempt to educate or rehabilitate.

Presently 72 buildings on 662 acres, house and care for 1600 epileptic patients ranging from infants to the aged. The annual budget of \$3,200,000 is expended by the Superintendent under the direction of the State Department of Mental Health and a board of seven trustees on which James McConchie of High Street is currently serving.

The Monson State Hospital operates as a virtually self-sustaining unit. A central power plant, converted in 1959 to oil, supplies heat and hot water to all buildings. A portion of the 200,000 gallons of water needed each day is supplied by the 27 driven wells on the property. A new building is in the process of construction to replace the outdated laundry. All the bread and pastry consumed is made in the up-to-date bakery

and the meals are prepared in two stainless steel kitchens and conveyed to the 17 dining rooms by truck. The farm group supplies fresh vegetables in summer, 2200 eggs per day, and raises about 50,000 pounds of pork per year.

Each dormitory, or cottage as they are called, is supplied with a television set and facilities for serving snacks. The hospital has its own beauty shop, laundry room for patients personal wash, occupational therapy rooms, class rooms and library for use of the patients.

A new recreation building has just been constructed. Modern and complete in every detail, it provides seating capacity for 1250 in the main auditorium. The seats can be turned to face either the fully equipped stage or the chapel at the opposite end. Also housed in this building are a regulation size basketball court with bleacher space for 800 spectators, a bowling alley, ping-pong table and a recreation lounge fitted with comfortable chairs and television.

Those children able to attend school, live in a group of buildings set apart from the others. Here regular classrooms are provided and school sessions follow the same regulations observed by public schools all over the state. Boy and Girl Scout activities and occasional theatrical performances help fill their after school hours.

The hospital is equipped to take care of any illness or surgical procedure. Besides the general operating room there is a small-



A recent group of patients who have completed their hospital training course.

ler surgical unit and six treatment rooms that are equipped to be turned into operating rooms in case of disaster. About 200 could be transferred to the hospital for care following an attack by nuclear weapons. A complete hospital is held in storage at the Monson State Hospital by the Civil Defense authorities to help care for the injured in an emergency. A new physiotherapy department with modern equipment has been recently opened to help give the 1,200 cerebral palsy patients all types of treatment in an effort to bring as much function to the paralyzed limbs as possible. The electroencephalogram suite (where brain waves are recorded on a moving chart) is equipped with two way glass; the operator can see the patient receiving the test, but can not be seen. The encephalogram is used to make tracings from various areas of the brain and to help locate brain damage, tumors and other abnormal conditions.

The search for ways to improve both the physical well being and mental outlook of the epileptic patient is constantly going forward. Each year new anticonvulsant drugs are tested under strict laboratory control in an effort to find a drug that will be of more benefit to the patient. For the last five years a highly organized course

of training has been in charge of the Director of Nurses—Miss Bernice Vennert, R. N., where patients have been given a two year course in caring for the crippled children and the aged. Recently the Legislature voted favorably to give a therapeutic stipend for 40 hours per week of work to this group who completed the required training. Other projects for Hospital Housekeepers are functioning throughout the hospital. Even the mentally disturbed patients are working in groups and their tendency to be destructive is converted to a useful purpose. Example: When the hair mattresses come from the sterilizer the hair is in balls. These patients tear the balls apart instead of tearing their clothing. It keeps them busy, interested in building up a good pile of this fluffy hair which is sent to the Industrial Room where the hair is again made into mattresses by patients who have been trained to do this work.

Thus one of the first grants of land in Monson — that of David Killian — has grown into the largest single tract of land, and the Monson State Hospital provides employment for more people (746, with a yearly payroll of over \$2,500,000) than any other business or institution within the town of Monson.



Monson State Hospital — Girl Scout Troop No. 465, Court of Awards.

Public Services

POST OFFICE

The Monson Post Office was established June 24, 1814, and became a Third Class Presidential Office in 1874, a Money Order Office in 1871 and an International Money Order Office in July 1881.



Postmaster, William P. Stone, Jr., presenting a certificate from the Post Office Department to Charles H. F. Osborne for forty-three years service to the department. Mr. Osborne, who retired in 1955, was then serving as assistant to the postmaster. Left to right: Henry Hale, Sr., William P. Stone, Jr., Venanzio Uliana, Charles Osborne, Thomas Hilliard, Mrs. Osborne, Richard Crowley, Omer Bradway, Earl Cookman, Jr.

For nearly sixty-five years the office was located at various places along Main Street. In 1879 it moved into the Central Block on Main Street. This building burned November 12, 1893, and all of the property with the exception of a few records was destroyed. The office was then housed in the old bank building at the corner of Main and State Streets, and later moved to the Norcross building, site of the old Central Block.

In 1923 the office was advanced to Second Class with city delivery. In 1941 the Post Office was moved to its present location in the building now owned by Yale H. Brown.

Rural Free Delivery was inaugurated in 1904 with Fay P. Holdridge appointed rural carrier and his father, George L. Holdridge, appointed substitute carrier for route one at a salary of \$702 per annum.

Wesley H. Holdridge was appointed carrier for route two and his father, Wilbur, was the substitute carrier. The salary for route two was \$684. The mail was delivered

using two-wheel gigs for transportation.

Other rural carriers have been Arthur Bennett, also of horse and buggy days, who retired in 1928; Alfred Norcross and Henry S. Hale, Sr.



SNOWMOBILE — Omer Bradway and Alfred Norcross purchased these vehicles in 1929 for use on their mail routes. Geared low and equipped with apparatus operating on the tractor principle, also with runners in front, the snowmobile was capable of surmounting the toughest going.

Thomas J. Hilliard is now assistant to the postmaster, Konstanty Misiasek is clerk and Earl R. Cookman, Jr., is substitute clerk. The present rural carriers are Omer E. Bradway and Venanzio D. Uliana, the city carrier is Richard D. Crowley and Leonard L. Villemaire is substitute carrier.

POSTMASTERS

Artemus Wiswell	June 24, 1814
Rufus Flynt	July 29, 1816
Edwin Norcross	January 28, 1836
William Packard	May 24, 1841
Austin Fuller	Aug. 22, 1845
Lucius Truesdell	April 10, 1847
Foster Pepper	July 7, 1853
Justus Torrey	June 26, 1858
Elmer G. Miles	June 21, 1861
Daniel G. Potter	Sept. 18, 1866
Myron D. Porter	April 8, 1869
Edwin Towne	June 26, 1869
Rice S. Munn	Dec. 22, 1873
Arthur D. Norcross	Nov. 13, 1880
G. W. Farrington	May 25, 1886
John P. Herlihy Jr.	Aug. 12, 1895
George Seymour	Jan. 3, 1900
Frederick J. Sullivan Sr.	Sept. 14, 1914
William H. Anderson	March 3, 1923
J. Robert Crowley	July 1, 1936
William P. Stone Jr.	May 10, 1947

RAILROADS

The Western Railroad, later known as the Boston and Albany Railroad, which runs through the northwestern corner of Monson was opened in 1839. In order to use this new mode of transportation, it was necessary to transport passengers and freight to Palmer by team.



STATE LINE STATION

The section of the New London, Willimantic and Palmer Railroad Company which connected Stafford to Palmer was opened on September 20, 1850, and the familiar brick station on Washington Street was erected in 1857. This company operated the line until January 5, 1859, when it was taken over by Trustees for the Bondholders who ran it until March 30, 1861. On that date it was sold to the New London Northern who ran it for about ten years.

The Central Vermont Railway operated this line under lease from June 25, 1873, until December 17, 1951 at which time they



OLD TRESTLE

purchased the line from the New London Northern.

The industrial importance of this railway through the center of town was stressed in that chapter. It heralded the beginning of Monson's greatest industrial era.



RAILROAD STATION

The railroad was an important event in the lives of people as well, for up to now travel had been limited to the distance a horse and carriage could carry one. The railroad opened a whole new territory to explore. Excursions were planned to New London, Block Island and other exciting places. The trains were used extensively during the summer months to carry special cars filled with picnickers bound for a day's outing at State Line Pond.

During these important years of the railroad, four passenger pick-up stations were maintained. In addition to the Main Station on Washington Street, smaller ones were located at North Monson near the C. F. Church factory site, at the corner of Lower Hampden Road and Elm Street, and near the State Line Crossing.

With the advent of the automobile, fewer people used the trains and passenger service was discontinued in the smaller towns. Trucks are now competing with the railroads for the freight business and the Central Vermont discontinued its freight agent in Monson in 1959. The station was taken down in February 1960.



MAIN ST. TROLLEY

ELECTRICITY

The Palmer Electric Company was incorporated June 15, 1887, for the purpose of "Manufacturing and furnishing light, heat and power by electricity" in the town of Palmer.

At the 1887 Town Meeting in Monson, seven hundred dollars was appropriated for the introduction of electric lights to the village on condition that \$400 be subscribed by the townspeople. The May 20, 1887, issue of *The Palmer Journal* states that this amount had been raised, but editorials in subsequent issues lead us to believe that the plans were not carried out.

George C. Flynt and other civic-minded citizens worked diligently and on January 6, 1893, the Palmer Electric Company changed its corporate name to the Palmer and Monson Electric Company and extended service to the town of Monson.

On January 19, 1894, the Central Massachusetts Electric Company was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and at a stockholders' meeting on February 1, 1894, it was voted to purchase the Palmer and Monson Electric Company.

On February 9, 1951, the Central Massachusetts Electric Company was merged into the Worcester County Electric Company who now supply us with light and power.

TELEPHONES

The introduction of telephones into Western Massachusetts spread rapidly after the issuance of a patent to Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.

The first mention of a telephone line into Monson appears in the March 27, 1880,

issue of *The Palmer Journal*: "The telephone lines from the freight office of the New London Northern Railroad in Palmer to Monson is now complete and works finely, making it easy to talk with a person in Monson as it is with one in the same room."



TELEPHONE BUILDING

This line was soon extended to Ware according to the April 10th issue: "On Wednesday evening through connection was made between Monson and Ware, communication being carried on without any difficulty, while music at Monson was heard and enjoyed at the freight office in Palmer."

These lines were private installations of the New London Northern Railroad.

The Central Massachusetts Telephone Co. opened an office in Palmer on May 1, 1881, with twenty-one phones in Palmer and seventeen in Monson. At this time, Monson, Palmer and Three Rivers were all on the same circuit. The territory covered by this company extended from Springfield to Boston, with the exception of the larger towns. They owned the old Franklin Telegraph line over which their messages were conveyed.

The May 28, 1881, issue of *The Palmer Journal* reported a second wire to Monson had been installed to accomodate increased business. A wire had also been run to the State Primary School.

The Massachusetts Telephone Co. bought out the Central Massachusetts Telephone Co. in 1881, which the following year merged with the Hampden Telephone Co. to form the Bay State Telephone Co. The New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. formed October 19, 1883, succeeded the Bay State Telephone Co. The Palmer exchange was assigned to the Western Division.

The May 1907 *Telephone Topics* con-



TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD

tains this item about Monson: "The Monson Exchange has the best farmers' line development of any Exchange in the Western Division. Every single highway leading from the center of town has a telephone line running out several miles. Miss Nellie R. Parker, who has operated this exchange for several years at her residence, (234 Main Street) has been quite ill and will probably have to give up the business."

Three months later the following item appeared: "The Monson Exchange moved from Parkers' home to the larger rooms farther uptown in Heimann and Lichten's Building near the bank. As soon as the new three-position board arrives and has been installed, Monson will have as nice a telephone exchange as many places of several times its number of inhabitants."

Monson's central office moved to the

second floor of the Norcross Block in June, 1912, and later to the second floor of the Bank Building.

In keeping with the modernization policy of the telephone company, land on Main Street was purchased from the Monson Home for Aged People, Inc. The house located thereon was destroyed to make way for a new dial office building. The conversion to the dial system took place in March, 1955.

At that time Dorothy Dalton was the Chief Operator, assisted by Dorothy Sullivan, Supervisor; Elizabeth O'Brien, Shirley Roberts, Marie Beaulieu, Eleanor Antognoni, Eunice Thorin, Charlotte Finnerty, Ruth Elliott, Margaret Meurisse, Doris Manley, Marilyn Manley, Joan Shields and Joan Hoy. Many of these operators accepted the offer of the company to work at the Palmer or Springfield Exchanges.

Early Home Sites

Some of the houses pictured have hand hewn beams, wooden pegs, hand made laths, shakes and hand made metal nails.

Since Brimfield was a parent town, shall we start at that bound? Turning to the right, there is a small, close to the ground, gambrel roof house with central chimney and a secret hiding place next to it.



This was built circa 1720, and it is thought to have been a posting place for change of horses.

Early families: Nichols, Buffington, Locke and John Miller from 1877-1908; now owned by Miss Emily Woods.



The Dr. Joseph Grout house, built around 1750. Later Parley S. Anderson, ancestor of one of our present druggists, Bert P. Anderson; purchased by Ralph Carew and lived in by Holridges and Flemings. It is now being restored by the present owner Charles Pierce.



The home of John Robbins and his mother. This is known as the William Beebe house built around 1800. Owned by William Beebe and later by his son Mark. It is located at the corner of Beebe and Reed Roads.



On East Hill Road we come to the early home of Ezra King, built in 1715, and the barn in 1716.

Early deed gives evidence that John Keep bought this from Ezra King, when Ezra wanted to move so as to be near his Gristmill on Elbow brook. Later, in 1755 it was conveyed to Jabez Keep.

The ell part of the house was added in 1860 by Parley Anderson, and the barn was torn down in 1880. A new one was built in the same year, using some of the sound timbers of the first one. William and Wilbur Holdridge occupied the house until 1916 and then sold to Warren R. Goodrich, who in turn sold to Peter and Joann Griswold in 1960. Another and smaller house built by Ezra was taken down in 1879.



"On June 19, 1906, a large black bear was killed. It was in the afternoon when Mrs. Holdridge sent word to Mrs. O. E. Bradway Sr. that there was a black bear in the meadow. Mr. Bradway came with his gun. He, together with Fred and Harry Beckwith, Wilber Holdridge and Mr. Pease set out for the pasture with their guns. The bear was killed, a tin plate nailed onto the tree from which it was shot. The tree was blown over in a storm in 1913.



The present home of Omer E. Bradway is located on what is known as the John Acherson grant. There have been arrow heads, small pieces of china and silverware found in this area. Below is a picture showing a few of articles found.

There is a story of the days when the Achersons lived there. The father was killed, and the small boy was "bound out" to Simeon Keep. Later it was sold by Mr. Keep for the boy. There is a deed in possession of one of his descendants noting the same.



Another picture showing 'treasures' taken from the area where an "old" house has been. According to 1855 map it could have been the home of a Puffer family. Earl Cookman and family having built a new house, and fixing the lawn, discovered the foundation of a former house or barn. Below is a picture of some of the articles that have been dug up.



The "ell part" toward the west is the old part. 1855 map shows B. Church living there. This was the home of Ira Bradway and son

William. Wm. Wright lived there and Joseph Sunter in 1890. Other occupants have been the Lintons, Teales and Repaskys. Present owners and living there are Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hladky, East Hill. Circa: 1800.



The home of Edward Sutcliffe, known earlier as the old Daniel Fosket place was purchased in 1848 by Matthew Sutcliffe, grandfather of Edward. Circa 1750-1770.



Circa: 1800. The 1855 map shows the name of Wm. King living there. Other names mentioned that are thought to have lived there are: Ansel Shaw, the late Mrs. Maude Fitzpatrick nee Alberty was born there. Cooney, Byron Moon, Snow, Welch, Jurczyk and the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Misiaszek and family. (This house will be taken down as a new one has been built.)



Here it may be of interest to note that buildings were moved, even in those days. Beyond the Misiasek home on the right side of the road, was a home owned by James Pendergast. As the story goes, the house was moved and re-assembled at the place where James Kane now lives on the Upper Stafford Road. Several yoke of oxen were used.



This place was purchased by Homer Squier in 1913. Previous owner was Alonzo Weldon who possessed it for about 37 years. He got it from William Grout, and it was at one time owned by Henry Beckwith.

Water supply for the buildings is from a well in the mowing of Samuel Koran, 875 feet away. A stone at the well with the initials B.W.G. may denote the date it was dug. The lot was bought from Rufus Stebbin's parents, Warren and Lucy, and was known as the "still lot." At one time there was a legal still about one hundred and twenty-five feet south west from the well.

The house was remodeled in 1935 and a room added to the North West corner, and to the kitchen on the North east side, to match an addition that had been put on when the original roof on the main part was shingled with "shakes."



Originally the Munn Place and later the home of Edson Walker and his descendants until bought by Samuel Koran. Built circa 1760-1790.

Miss Eliza Walker who was born there is still very active and interested in current affairs. Her present home is on Washington Street and until last year drove her own car.



As this area is in the section of early settlement, it might be well to mention, that the Stebbins Place was always in that family until bought by Harold Blodgett. The house is not the original and the barn was built by Warren and Lucy Stebbins.

In 1789 Diana Walker and Jonas Moulton were married and lived in this house. A deed in possession of the owner relates that the house was moved "from the edge of Bradway's Garden" to its present site, because of road re-location. It was owned by Towar Moulton and he passed it down to his daughter Bessie; Mrs. Guy Pelton.



The Irving Bradway House on Moulton Hill
Excerpts

"Abel Bradway, son of William Bradway, married and lived for awhile at Smithfield, N. J., decided to strike out and find a new home.

Mounted on horseback and carrying all of their earthly possessions in saddlebags; the young couple traversed a wilderness trail that finally brought them to Moulton Hill. Abel built himself a small house, and a few years later erected the house which his descendants occupy today.

The large central chimney and fireplace in each room was in the center of the house.

Thirty years ago—1934—the chimney was removed and the house was remodeled.

The attic still contains relics of early times. Among these are large and small spinning wheels, looms, candle molds, lanterns, clothes, books and an Ancient Cheese press, which was used as recently as 1929 to make Thanksgiving and Christmas cheeses.

In the living room is a very old set of dishes, an Adam Clock, canteen and musket used by Rodney in Civil War; a six ft. rifle which Amon Bradway, son of Abel, used for hunting. Tradition has it that Amon, born in Monson in 1811 was a noted hunter and his favorite hunting ground was the Mt. in Brimfield, now called Steerage Rock." Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Felton remodeled in 1953—John Scott bought it in 1954.



Presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hickey

This is one of the early houses to be built in Monson. It is gambrel roof, near to the ground and of early construction. There is some conjecture as to whether it housed a store, or whether the store was in a small cabin by itself.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barber. Built circa 1790-1800. Earlier the home of David and Jerusha Bradway. About 1900 a family by the name of Lannigan lived there and later Mr. Michael Kaminski bought it and lived there for some years. David and Jerusha were great-grandparents of Winnie Bradway Bliss of Pease Ave.



This place is the home of Mrs. Paul Lobik on Moulton Hill, and was built around 1795 and at that time lived in by Daniel Moulton.

Mr. Moulton would collect the bones available, and the rancid ones were ground into fertilizer, and the better ones were steamed and made into bone meal.



Back to the Wales Road, in the area known as Conant's Dam is a small house which has, until the 1930's been in the Conant family. It was purchased by the Senecal family. The back part of the house or ell was a part of the old grist mill. A brother, Seneca Conant, lived across the way in the house where Thomas Smart lives. He spent his latter days with the late Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Squier of Moulton Hill.

Returning to Brimfield Road to the north, we find on King road the home of Clarence Holmes. The house has been enlarged, but features of the original still remain. It was



in this house that the first Town Meeting was held.

In deeds at Springfield, Vol. 14, Page 136 where Samuel King for one hundred pounds "paid by my son, Samuel King, husbandman, conveys land in Monson, easterly part of District on a Hill called King's Hill and adjoining East on the road, north on Josiah Keep, west on Capt. Hitchcock, and South on land that was originally Thomas King's, it being my home-lot where I now live, bounded, begin a large stone set up in Thomas King's North line, 260 rods to the road aforesaid, thence running north to Josiah Keep's south line, thence west on said Keep's south line and in the south line of Richard Bishop land 260 rods to Capt. Hitchcock's N. E. corner then south in Capt. Hitchcock's line to first mentioned bounds, containing 176 Acres."

Signed December 28, 1769



Built in 1799—Colonial architecture by Abel Goodell. Later lived in by the Carpenter family. Charles, Joseph, C. Walter Carpenter, Alice Carpenter Vaill and Ernest Carpenter who now lives on the Boston Road.

A porch was added which is the only structural change. At the time of C. Walter living there, he carried on both fruit and dairy projects. Mrs. Lilla Carpenter is still living there.



On the Carpenter Road to the South, is the home of Arthur Richardson. He purchased this house from Charles Anderson who had earlier purchased it from Arthur Howe, whose grandfather Asa King built the large section in 1820. The small part, using large timbers and plaster was constructed in or about 1795. At one time it was the home of the Reverend Jesse Ives.



Originally the John Keep grant, settling here in 1720

The first house on the site burned in 1797 and the present one built in 1798. This was owned by Simeon, Simeon, Jr., and his daughter Lucy who married Charles Carpenter, father of Joseph and Daniel. It was conveyed to Joseph, who felt it was too small for him so he exchanged with his brother Daniel.

Miss Alice Carpenter, granddaughter of Daniel, is still living and was long a well liked teacher in our public schools.

This was purchased by O. C. McCray in 1902 and sold by his estate in 1926 to the late Clarence Richardson, father of the present owner, Arthur Richardson. This is located at the top of McCray's Hill on Carpenter Rd.



Presently owned by C. C. McCray and lived in by Irving Crosby, a direct descendant of the Norman Crosby's of Silver St.

Jonathon Flynt purchased it in 1785; sold to Asa Gates in 1794; becoming the property of Calvin S. Pease in 1869. It was passed to his daughter Alice in 1903 and to her son Carlos McCray in 1950. It was moved to lower State Street when a larger house was built.

This was the birthplace of Fanny Gates Bradford, well liked house mother at Monson Academy.

Fanny Gates Bradford lived to celebrate her 100th birthday.

OTHER EARLY HOME

JOSEPH BUTLER HOUSE

The house next to Butler Cemetery was owned by Deacon Joseph Butler—who around 1795, as that is the year in which he gave the cemetery plot to the town. Other names listed in connection with this are Joseph Stimson, Joshua Fuller, Jr., Anna Butler, Daniel Mixter, Azariah Butler.

Purchased in the late 1950's by William Boyd. He has renovated it. Its early owner was Munroe Poole, a railroad man from West Springfield. Mrs. Poole moved to the Edwin Hobson house at the corner of Hampden Rd. and Butler Road.

WILLIAM NORCROSS HOME

William Norcross home. Built around 1775, showing features of Luther Carter Style. The inside hinges on the doors are of longer than usual length to give greater strength. The "look out" on the top was probably used to watch for Indians. It may have been a Tavern and Trading Post. It later became a boarding house for the employees of the S. F. Cushman & Sons; Heiman & Lichten; Adam Neidzerwicki; Victor Coteau; Donald Dixon and now owned by the Harold Wade Est.



William Norcross, 1790-1800.—It may have been used for a caretaker's cottage for the Tavern. Later became property of Chapins, Cushmans, Heiman and Lichten and now the Kearns.



Built circa 1790-1800. The names of Giddings and Spaulding are found in early papers. Ellen Chapin owned it Oct. 14, 1887. Solomon Cushman Est. conveyed to Hannah C. Sheriffs Aug. 1912. Present owner is Edna Sheriffs.



Along side of "Chiccuppee" Brook, and facing Chestnut Street, is a small white house which dates back to 1734.

The original hand hewn beams for the ceiling and some of the original floors and doors are still there.

The following are some of the ownership dates:

John King	1846	Charles Stebbins	
Lewis King	1847		1854
Daniel Fosket	1852	Dana Stebbins	1860
Ariel Rogers		Alfred Wallace	1878
Arthur Brewer	1852	John Bogan	1895
Daniel Foskit		L. John Borgeson	
Ariel Rogers	1854		1895

Presently owned by Alfred W. Borgeson, Chestnut Street, and is lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Maynard.



Capt. Hitchcock House

The home of Mrs. Charles Thomas, 15 Mechanic Street. Mrs. Thomas acquired it from her mother, Mrs. Angelina Stiles, who had earlier received it from her father, George Wilson; Henry Miller, Sr., purchased from Timothy and Phoebe Hinsdale Brown. It is thought that it may have been built around middle 1700s.

Phoebe Hinsdale Brown wrote hymns—the most famous being "I love to steal awhile away, from every'cumbering care."

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were the parents of Samuel Robbins Brown, one of the first missionaries to Ceylon, India. He was also a missionary to both China and Japan. He brought to Monson, students from both countries; some of whom are buried in Hillside cemetery.

The most famous of the students was Yung Wing, a Chinese, and a graduate of Yale, and often a visitor at the Brown home.



KEEP HOMESTEAD — ELY ROAD

John and Lucy Smith sold to Alfred Ely in 1809 who sold to Holton Olmsted in 1843. Marcus Chapin purchased it in 1854 and he conveyed the property to Edward Keep in 1856. Charles C. Keep bought the homestead from his father in 1893, and the property passed to his two daughters, Marion P. Keep and Mira Keep Moulton in 1947.

This was the home of the Reverend Alfred Ely during his active ministry in the First Church in Monson. He conducted the farm and ran a cider mill, to help meet living expenses, as he received only \$300 salary. An account book shows that he supplied many people of the village with vinegar.



Marcus Chapin was married in 1830 and went there to live. It was owned later by Lt. George M. Severy, Civil War veteran. Frank Severy, his son, was born here and was, for many years until retirement, manager of the A.&P. store. A Mr. Johnson sold to Elmer Pease in 1908; he sold to Mr. Alheusen and it is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Spear.



Several generations of the Rogers' family have lived here, Grandfather Eli Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rogers and now it is in possession of their son Wilfred Rogers and is occupied by his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nothe. Mrs. Juliette Sikes, sister of Edson Walker, spent the latter years of her life there, and lived to be 102 years old.



Built around 1820-1830 and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Davis. According to the 1855 map J. Hitchcock lived there, then Morris Hitchcock, and Fred Hitchcock. Fred Davis, possessor of the gold headed cane as the oldest man in town, and who on June 7, 1960 passed away, bought it from Seth Bradway in 1915, and has lived there since.



Home of Mrs. Alma Lunden built around 1790

James Duncan lived there and Mrs. Winnie Duncan Bradway was born there. It was also the home of Ed Harris at one time.



Arthur Berube purchased home from Philias Vandal in 1932. 1870 map shows Bradway Bros., Frank, J. Henry and Seth. 1855 map shows A (Abner Bennett) and deeds mention Bela Bennett heirs.



Absalom Shaw married Esther Patten in 1788 and they went to the Edgar Shaw place to live. From Absalom, to son Lucius, who conveyed it to Eli M. Shaw in 1858, who in turn conveyed it to Edgar Shaw in 1894.

His son Clifford sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Battige. Thus it passed from the Shaw family who had possessed it for over one hundred and twenty-five years.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Harrington

1808-1822—Joshua Shaw

1822-1836—Absalom Shaw

1836-1875—Azariah Butler

1875 Daniel Mixter

1875 Azuriah Butler heirs, Janette Butler, Amelia and Henry Stimson

1875 Eleazer Bradway

1875-1879—Delia Lull

1879-1900 Seth C. Bradway

1900-1914—William and Emma Spender

1914-1957—Christian and Alma Christine Hansen

1957 Leonard Harrington



This is the home of Herbert Battige, Butler Road. He recalls that there was a shoemaker that lived in the ell part that was torn down. Other names recalled are Hazard, Eugenia Leigh, the Burleigh family, and Leslie Moulton. According to map of 1855 E. Bennett lived there and in 1870 a Miss Switzer.



Mulberry Tree at home of Herbert Battige



The map of 1855 shows that O. Pease lived there, and the house may have been built circa 1820-1830. In 1879 it gives the name of H. Pease which may have been the son of O. Pease. Later Charles Fisher lived there.

It was bought and restored and the porch removed by Archer Bennett, Lower Hampden Road.



This Cape Cod house was built around 1788-1790.

Gideon Pease conveyed to Salmon Pease and he to his son Calvin. In 1869 the family moved to the village. Other occupants have been Squire Ballard, Coomes, Turnbull and at present Mr. and Mrs. John Storm.



This house was built by Ralph Fuller, who conveyed it to his older daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband Alanson Chaffee. Alanson sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Ellis 1865. Mr. Ellis died and passed the property to Mrs. Ellis who completed the mortgage.

She married John Henry Bradway, May 7, 1871. After their death, Elsie Bradway Chaffee, their daughter, became the owner. She sold to Dr. C. Evans Sawyer, May 1960.



Believed to have been built around 1830-1835

1855 map shows it as belonging to R. Pease. Later owned by J. L. Bradway and when the home of the J. C. Bradway family burned, they moved to this one. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Lecour.



This is the "Old Cider Mill" on the property now belonging to the Springfield Sportsman's Club. It was earlier owned by J. C. Bradway. It has been recalled that Mrs. J. C. Bradway, as a bride of sixteen years, went there to live and then the house was a hundred years old. It burned in 1938.



This shows the wooden gears used to develop power for using the press gears. The mill seems to be still intact.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sanderson

In 1795, Lieutenant Benjamin Fuller built the house, now called "Bonnie Biel," occupied by his great, great grand nephew.

The late Frank Nelson of Ely Road was a great grandson of Mr. Fuller's.

A son built a house nearby and together they operated a cider mill on the small brook at the back of the property. It was hinted that they also made cider brandy. Large apple orchards extended to the Hoar Farm and to that part of West hill formerly known as Noble's Hill.

An itinerant carpenter went through this section of town building most of the houses and using the same plan for all. Bonnie Biel and the Alonzo Beebe house have the same plans or similar plans but in reverse.

In 1762 the town laid out a road going from Brimfield to Hampden. It passed the Fuller places and the Colton Tavern before dipping into Colton Hollow. Coaches coming from Connecticut stopped at the old Tavern for rest and refreshment.

Charles Stacy and a Mr. Noyes at one time lived in this house.



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Supernaw who purchased the house in 1944, give names of previous owners as William Remington, Lyman Flynt and it may be that earlier than that it was one of the Colton places, possibly that of William.



This is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mushenko and family and was built around 1795 to 1800. John Barry purchased 34 Acres from Haynes in 1858; in 1865 twenty-eight acres were added from Fuller. In 1894, Geo. H. Foskit, guardian of the Barry heirs who were Mary Fitzgerald and Ann Barry, sold to Johnson. In 1902 12 acres purchased from Carew.

1912—Mayers

1919—Lemieux

1920—Lieson

1921—Whitten

1922—Cherwick (Charwick) In 1922 sold three times:

March—Whitten to Warner

July—Warner to Morin

July—Morin to Charwick



The home of Mr. and Mrs. James Trombly, Hampden Road

The square hip-roof house shows features of a "Carter" house, therefore built around 1800.

Mr. Converse—a gentleman farmer, Mr. Guilford and Mr. Lavidiere are names of owners recalled as is that of Mr. Green.



Morningbrook—Home of Mr. and Mrs.
Norman Winter, Hampden Rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Winter bought of the George North Estate in 1941. Previous owners Leander Patrick, September 10, 1910, Fred Patrick, Elizaeth Beebe, Lorenzo Squier. Mr. Squire and family were there for many years. Built Circa: 1835.



This was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Beebe for many years, in fact his ancestors prior to that. According to record of "Bonnie Biel" this building would date back to 1800. There were two children in the Alonzo Beebe family. Dr. Ralph, professor at Amherst College, and Helen, now Mrs. Corey Mills.

It is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tidd live in a small house on the site of Daniel Butler's early home. Mr. Daniel Butler was one of the early settlers in Silver Street. Mr. and Mrs. Tidd are now among the older families in the area.



Dating back to 1834, and called the "old Hatch place" this house is now owned and lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Clarkson. Three casket plates which were found in the house were inscribed as follows: Evelin Hatch 33; Henrietta Fuller—died May 26, 1860, age 18 years; Emeline Fuller—died May 31, 1869—aged 53 yrs.



OLD FUNERAL CUSTOMS (from an
early news clipping)

"The silver plates in those days were removed from the coffins and were afterwards framed, and hung in the parlor under the enlarged picture of the dead. Such a group is recalled where a crepe bow was fastened to the cord on which each picture was suspended."



Shadrack Thayer and son Timothy built this house, a veritable mansion for those days. Early owners of this property: Timothy Burr, Amasa Knowlton 1789; Knowlton sold to Shadrack Thayer in 1806, then to Colonel Butler. (Col. by reason of old training days). He deeded to son Lyman. Daniel was father of Col. Benjamin. Mr. Bugbee was an owner and now it is in possession of Dr. Booker.



This house bought by Stephen Cross, house-wright, from Benj. Butler in 1804. In another place in the records he was listed as a carpenter. It is now in the name of Hazel Rossi.



This was the early home of Henry Trumble and his grandfather before him, ancestors of the Harris family living on North Main Street. Mrs. Harris was a Trumble. One member recalls the incident of Grandfather Trumble giving the Indians winter corn for land. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller who have enlarged it to meet the needs of a growing family. The lines, even though changed, show evidence of an early date; around 1820.



Owned in 1804 by Lothrop Clark, and for many years by William Thayer and descendants.

It has recently been purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gallo, Silver St.



Owned by Daniel Butler in 1805, sold to Joseph Warriner in 1805-1849; Elias Warriner 1849-1902; 1902-1957 by Mr. Schmelsinger and Christina and Fred Wright; purchased in 1957 by Randall Rogers.



This was the home of Almon Beebe, and for a while his son lived there. 1820-1830. Dr. Ralph Ober owned it for quite a few years and it is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wesson and family, on Reimer's Road, in west part of the town.



At the intersection of the Lower Hampden Road and Elm Street is an old blacksmith shop. It was built around 1800, owned by Horace Moulton, Ralph Moulton, Frank Bliss and John Tobin and has been a landmark for many years. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Kozol are present occupants of the house.



Owned by Horace Moulton and left to his daughter Flora Moulton Barber, on the Hampden Lower Road.

It may have been at one time part of Asa White's holdings.

In 1849 it was sold to Hampden Cotton Co.

In 1879 sold to Cyrus Truesdell and then to Horace Moulton. Dr. and Mrs. Howard Barber now live there.



Esban White first owned the property around 1825. He sold to Austin Fenton in 1858; he to Lucius Shaw in 1861; Lucius and Mercy Shaw conveyed the property to Benjamin Grout Sept. 4, 1871.

His son George Grout, as guardian of his father Benjamin, sold to Peter Hayes, June 2, 1875. He in turn sold to John S. Lynch in 1905.

It was conveyed to Peter Hayes' nephew Richard N. Hayes in 1908. He sold to Nellie Chapell the same year. She sold to Elmer Pease in 1910 and he to Thomas Murphy in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murphy and family live there now.



North of the railroad crossing at State line, is a building which is of the Carter House type, which may date it circa 1800-1804. It is thought to have been used as a tavern. It was owned by Waldo Smith although he may not have been the first owner. Later a Mr. Stimpson lived there and he may have been a direct descendant of the Mr. Stimson, whom it is said, built the C. P. Bradway place at the foot of Peaked Mountain.

The front door is a very attractive one, and to the side is another, known as a "Coffin Door." Since funerals customarily were held at home, and the area inside of the front door was quite narrow, because many times stairways rose abruptly and reduced available space, there was need for another door, "the Coffin Door."

It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Demers.



Smith Bros., Melville and Reuben, built this house around 1820. One brother lived in the small part and the other lived in the larger one. The lumber for the house was "gotten out" with an up and down saw in their own mill. It has remained in the Smith family, the last occupants being Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith.



On the opposite side of the road was the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Smith. Mr. Smith was for several years a Selectman. He also conducted an ice-business, cutting ice from the pond across the way. Their house was also built by the Smith Bros.

In later years Lloyd Moulton helped cut and delivered many tons of ice for use in refrigerators, and for the Sunday making of the "never to be forgotten" ice-cream.

It is now the home of Paul Meurrisse, of Meurrisse Bros. lumber.



The Home of Mrs. Andrew Magill (May Bradway, daughter of Charles P. Bradway)

Found among some old letters, in handwriting of Aunt Ella Jewett, as she was called by those who knew her well, was one in answer to an inquiry about the history of the place. "The Old House on the Lawn."

"It is with some hesitation that my pen complies with the request to write upon the subject of this dear old dwelling.... Although on a hill, yet it is situated at the foot of Peaked Mountain, one of the highest in Massachusetts, ...

"It is surrounded by a sawmill which is to the west, a cider mill lies at the southwest, a work shop at the southeast, while at the north the scenery stretches.

I can imagine the old windals (windlass?) at the well, which was perhaps a new fangled notion in those days and perhaps considered a great improvement. Away over trees and fences, hills and valleys away to far horizons.

It must be over a century old and was built about 1760. The building when first erected was owned, it is said, by a man by the name of Stimpson. It is of simple construction, with low roof and large stone chimney which gives it a certain air of true antiquity."

Continuing with other facts, Philip Gage owned it until 1851, Charles Hiram Bradway 1851-1892; Ella Bradway Jewett, 1892-1915. Charles P. Bradway and his brother later bought out by Andrew Magill, 1915-1938, Rev. Andrew Magill 1938-1959.

A large bake oven occupied the center of the floor plan but was removed about 100 years ago. No major changes have been made in recent times. The large barns across the road went down in the hurricane of 1938.

Mrs. Arnold's house was built on an existing foundation around 1919. Mrs. Arnold, a friend of Aunt Ella, was the writer of a "Love-lorn" column.

Charles Philip was a manufacturer, as noted. 'Aunt Ella Jewett was a school teacher as well as farmer. She loved apple trees and obtained samples of all known varieties for her orchards, turning the less saleable varieties into cider in an old horse-operated cider mill which still stands.



Warren Cresswell House

Excerpt from a clipping loaned by the owner.

"The Holmes cottage opposite that gentleman's residence, is undergoing extensive repairs, and a slightly tower is being added to the southeast corner. The other day, a workman discovered a piece of board, hid away in

a ceiling, on which was written in lead pencil the following bit of history:

"I, Geo. Newton, now take my pencil to inform whoever hereafter may find this board that this house was built 43 years ago by Luther Carter, who was then a great and accomplished workman of the trade. The house was built by Mr. Russ who owned it until it was sold to Mr. Joel Norcross, whose heirs sold it to the Rev. C. B. Kittredge, their present pastor, who was ordained on Oct. 10th last. The house is now undergoing repair under the supervision of Capt. L. D. Newton for Rev. C. B. Kittredge. This is written by Geo. H. Newton, son of I. F. Newton, May 3, 1847."



This, too, is a Carter house, built for his own residence. Circa: 1800. Arthur &/or Jennie Bennett bought it of Nichols in 1897.

Mr. Bennett was rural mail carrier for 22 years. In his early days he used a horse and wagon for delivery, kept three horses and changed often. He cared for cows, garden and chickens. When the house was purchased one of the walls in one room had out-door scenes painted on it.



Addison Thompson's Home: located in the cemetery area and presently under supervision of Cemetery Commissioners. Mr. Charles Stacy and Milton Howe were caretakers and

have lived there. David Broadfoot, the Clarks and Frank Carter families have also lived there. The north and south ends are constructed of brick and the sides of wood. Built Circa 1800.



This house built around 1800 has for many years been in the Fay family. Four generations having lived here, Rufus Fay, Eli, William Eli and Howard. This is close to the site of Fellow's Tavern and the owner believes that in earlier times there was an Indian Village at that site.

He tells of the Watch and Ward society. There was a rule that on Sunday one could not travel except for a Doctor or to go to Church. Anyone violating this rule was apprehended and taken to Rufus Fay's house to spend the night and was released Monday morning.

A cave is thought to be on the mountain in back of this area, and the story is told that if one looked across the ridge-pole of the old Foley barn, a light could be seen. Some have tried to find this but as yet no one has succeeded.



1822—Land bought by John Hooker and sold to Zachariah Thayer.

1834—Levi Bliss

1835—Basiliel Sherman

1837—Chesbro Lewis

- 1843—Jesse Leavens, Molla and James Cowles, Jasper Severance formed a business, blinds and window sash.
 1847—Cyrus and Peggy Knox
 1850—Elijah Valentine built the present house on factory foundation. Finish is black walnut, mural type wall paper, still on, and a winding staircase to the cupola.
 1854—Samuel Shaw
 1859—Jesse Murdock
 1864—Deborah Shaw
 1865—Edson Sexton
 1870—Frances Brown
 1871—John Converse
 1882—Hiram Wade
 1899—Mary Holden. Mr. and Mrs. George Russell, daughter and son-in-law, now reside there.



A Mr. Anderson, brother of Almus, owned this prior to Daniel Watson who was Mrs. Wm. Moulton's father. It has been in the family ever since. Circa 1800. Mr. and Mrs. Moulton this year celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. Both enjoy traveling. Mr. Moulton keeps up his interest in mills and water wheels.



Mr. Almus Anderson was an early owner of this house. Later it became the property of James Chaffee, Teacher of Music and Tuner of pianos, grandfather of Robert and Charles Chaffee living in town.

The story is told that the front part is around 200 years old and the back part was moved from the Norman Dempsey property to its present place.



Built 1825, date found on the laths in the kitchen ceiling. Federal style Architecture. Previous owners: George Lucier, Quaboag Country Club; Henry Flynt and prior to 1864 it was owned by the Monson-Brimfield Mfg. Co., and was lived in at one time by the Patrick Dalton Family.

This is one of the last remaining houses of the North Monson Village as per Monson-Brimfield Mfg. Co. (Church Mfg. Co.) Retains most of its original features, four fireplaces, wide floorboards, wainscoting, stair paneling, matchstick or prim, fireplace mantels. Now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Fenton.



Early owner known as Harrison Day, called in general "Happy Day." People recall, when they as children went to "Happy" Day's Grist Mill. Later it was owned by Joseph Sunter and now by Lucius Young.



BUMSTEAD HOME

This house was lived in by Jeremiah Bumstead, who was Grandfather to Miss Zerfea Bumstead now living on Main Street. Her Grandfather and his brother were connected with the output of iron, in Silver Street. Horace Bumstead, son of Jeremiah, was born in 1839 and the family moved to the Bumstead home on Upper Stafford Rd. around 1840. The builder is unknown but it was built prior to Jeremiah going there to live. Circa, 1800.

It is now owned by Ralph Rice from Springfield, Mass.



"Fourstacks" getting its name from the four chimneys that were on the house. It is said that at one time it was a tavern. It was bought in 1890 by John Carew's parents and it then became his. It is believed to have been built by a Bradway at an early date. There is little information available on this house. Now lived in by Mrs. John Carew.



This house was formerly the home of the Newton family. The design of it leads one to believe that it may have been one built in the early 1800's by Luther Carter. It is now lived in and owned by Mrs. Ida M. Noble.



Home of Orwic and Mrs. Rogers,
No. Main St., Monson, Mass.

Cape Cod: Hand hewn beams, wooden

pegs and wide 14" and 15" boards in the floor.

Original owner unknown, may have been built around 1800.

Naming some of the owners: Rogers bought from LaRoche, he from North, Flynt Const. Co. Mary Ann Smith 1880, Patrick Connors, Comfort and Lannagan.



This was also property of Flynt Const. Co. more recently owned by the Allen family. This was lived in by various ones, some of the names recalled are Jerry Carter, Moriarty, Shea and Mike Connors who was a section hand when the trolleys were running. It was also called "Castle's Garden." How it got its name or why is not known.

Thumbnail Sketches

AGRICULTURE

According to Webster's Dictionary:

"Agriculture is the art or science of cultivating the ground, and raising and harvesting the crops, often including also, feeding, breeding, and management of livestock; tillage and husbandry.

The science and art of the production of plants and animals, useful to man, includes to a variable extent the preparation of these products for man's use and their disposal by marketing or otherwise. In this broad sense it includes farming, horticulture, forestry, dairying, sugar making etc."

In the 1940 January issue of *The Hampden*, published by the Hampden County Improvement League and Trustees for County Aid to Agriculture, co-operating with Massachusetts State College and United States Department of Agriculture, the following appears: "Census year. Do you own three acres of land and did you raise animals, birds or crops worth \$250 during 1939? If your answer is yes, you are a farmer according to the Bureau of the Census of United States Department of Commerce."

In some of the early records are stories of one of the mill owners making rounds to pick up material for the next day's work. Wool for the industry. Sheep raising was a part of the agricultural picture.

The map of 1877 shows a list of 27 farmers. Many raised cattle for milk and others became cattle dealers. If an animal was beyond usability, end results were 'hides for tannery' and 'beef' to eat. If there was a surplus of milk, it was converted into cottage cheese; butter was made from either sweet or sour cream, and buttermilk was used for making of biscuits, doughnuts, pies and cakes.

A horse drawn, low-down milk cart or wagon, a supply of milk in eight or ten quart cans, made of tin, and using a quart measure, the milkman made his daily trips to deliver to each customer, the amount of milk he desired. Among these were Ralph Carew, John Carew, C. C. Keep, Elmer Pease, and Stebbins farms.

Arthur Howe, Fred Rogers, Edward Sutcliffe and Omer Bradway, Sr., were peddlers of cream and butter. Corn was grown in quantity and grist mills ground it into flours and grains, used for breads and puddings.

Pigs, many times were fed table scraps, skim milk and some grain, even the whey from cottage cheese and sour milk, and 'pig potatoes' (those were the ones too small to use in the house). In turn the pig yielded his skin, feet for pickled pig's feet, sausage, lard, "scraps", roasts, hams and shoulders

Chickens provided eggs and meat. The surplus was sold and the housewife called the profits her "egg money."

Ducks and geese provided, food, feathers and down. Down was plucked from the live birds and used to fill ticking for the making of feather beds, which were used over the corn husk mattresses.

Favorite horses when no longer able to work, sometimes had their hides tanned and made into fur coats for the family.

Much land was under cultivation and it was done by horses and oxen, using old type hand ploughs, harrows, and cultivators. After proper conditioning of the soil, seed was planted, tended and then harvested.

Before the advent of the automobile, most food was grown locally and used locally. Before the days of refrigeration, there was sometimes a well in the cellar. Water tight cans of milk and a pail of butter might be found suspended in the very cold water.

The vegetable cellar showed potatoes, Hubbard squash or pumpkins, beets and carrots and turnips buried in sand. Unripened tomatoes on the vine were tied and hung from a sill or beam to ripen slowly. On shelves were stored row upon row of canned vegetables, fruits and meats. Mother Nature provided small fruits which were made into jams and jellies.

Forestry: cutting of wood, for fuel, ties for the railroad, poles for telephone, and home use provided many days work. Later, wood dealers were more plentiful. On order a load of green, dry, split, sawed, or mixed wood could be delivered to your door.

Some of these dealers were Fred Davis, Justin Carew and O.C. McCray.

There are programs now which provide for teaching young people how to do these various tasks; also how to raise and care for animals. Among the first 4H Leaders were Mrs. Fred Rindge and Mrs. Joseph Labelle.

Industry has claimed many young people, and farms have dwindled in number, yet expanded in size and have become mechanized.

MONSON HOME FOR AGED PEOPLE

The movement to provide a home for aged people was introduced by the "King's Daughters and Sons." In 1914, the group had a fund of five hundred dollars which it set aside as a nucleus for such a home. The following year a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps for the incorporation of a group of persons to be known as the Monson Home for Aged People, Inc.

Immediately A. D. Ellis gave five thousand dollars, and Mrs. Edward D. Cushman gave her home in memory of her husband, Edward D. Cushman, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon F. Cushman.

Through the generous contributions of the many people interested in the home, some of whom were: Esther Holmes, Belle St. Clair, Martha Ellis, Clara Ellis, Florence Cushman, Ann Conant, Charles S. Hoar, Elizabeth Dowling, Fannie B. Capen, Henrietta Lewis, Charlotte Nichols, Lillian N. Bradway and Louise Capen, it has fulfilled the purpose for which it was dedicated on June 4, 1919.

FROM THE LIBRARY FILES

The late Fred Cady, for years editor and publisher of the Monson Register, is known to have collected considerable material for a history of Monson and it is most unfortunate that he did not live to carry the project to completion. Mr. Cady was well acquainted with the early history of the town and his style of writing was what is popularly known as "breezy"

On the occasion of the passing of Edward L. King, a quaint and lovable character who died in 1918, Mr. Cady wrote in part as follows: "Mr. King won a wide acquaintance and a large circle of friends as a tin peddler, a vocation which he followed for many years. Not so many years ago the proper way to get tinware was out of a cart. The housewife saved up rags, rubbers and anything in the junk line. Eventually, the tin peddler drove up to the door and proceeded to dicker. When 'Greek met Greek' in the olden days, the resultant

tug-of-war was such that the proverb lives to this day. When a Yankee tin peddler met a Yankee housewife, a mental contest ensued, seasoned with spicy conversation that would have been a joy to those ancient Greeks.

"Woolworth and the other people who have five-and-ten-cent stores have knocked all the poetry out of the tin business. There is no excitement connected with stepping into a store and buying a tin pan. It is purely a commercial transaction. Not so in the older days. The lady had the junk and the peddler had the tin and both of them had time to give to a transaction that brought out their latent ability.

"The tin peddler had something else that the lady wanted, and that was news. In those days, newspapers were not delivered at the door every day and the tin peddler knew what was going on all over his field. The Youth's Companion, The Springfield Weekly Republican and the Tin Peddler had the field all to themselves, and the Tin Peddler had it on the other two, as he knew of a number of things that the others dissent publish.

"Those of us who did not have an opportunity of getting our tinware of Mr. King when he was active in business, missed considerable. The next best thing was to hear him tell of his experiences, and that is a pleasure that many of us have had. Knowing the man as we did, we can imagine the amount of good cheer that he radiated around the country when he was in his prime. The most valuable thing in the world is sunshine. Mr. King was more than a tin peddler, he was a sunshine merchant."

Riding inside a hearse would not seem to come under the head of joy riding, but an automobile dealer here managed to get considerable fun out of such a ride the other day. Accompanied by a friend, he went to Ohio to drive back a new hearse for a local undertaker. To save time he bought a mattress and pillow — which he installed in the place usually reserved for a coffin. When he became tired of driving, he turned the wheel over to his friend, got inside the hearse and went to sleep.

The curtains were drawn and all went well until the driver stopped for gasoline. The station attendant was a colored man and as he started to pump the gas he asked the driver, "You got somebody dead in there?" The driver nodded and the attendant kept one eye cocked toward the body of the hearse. As luck would have it the dealer woke up at this instant and curious to know why they had stopped, raised the curtain and looked out, full into the face of the attendant.

A look of horror came over the latter's face and his arm stopped moving. For three or four seconds he stood as if paralyzed, then letting go the crank, he backed slowly away from the hearse. Not knowing what had happened, the driver asked him what was the matter.

The attendant's jaws worked, but he made no sound. Finally he pointed to the hearse. By this time the dealer saw the situation, so, sinking back on his bed he gave a piteous groan. This was too much for the black man's nerves. With a yell, he ducked into the station.

No amount of coaxing served to bring him out again until the dealer climbed out and showed himself. They then showed him the sleeping ar-

rangements and he gazed at them in awe. Finally he said, "You mean you gemmen sleep in that place?" They said they did, and he looked from one to the other, shaking his head. Then he said, "Well, all I've got to say is you gemmen's sure got damn little imagination."

MACKMEADOW 1926

"Mackmeadow" famous Monson house burned. Believed to be work of vandals, the Estate has a long history.

The burning of "Mackmeadow" Monday night, came as a climax to a period of vandalism there. The fine old house was situated at the end of a mile long road, which leads from Ely Road west, and was the sole habitation on it. The building nestling at the foot of the hill, had in its foreground, a pond, famous for its fishing, and the woods nearby furnished many feathered flocks for hunters.

Two deeds in the possession of George C. Flynt convey to Samuel McIntosh the farm property on which the house stood. One was executed Jan. 5, 1839, by Richard and Armeda Stacey and the other by the trustees for the heirs of William Norcross; Alfred, Albert; Loring and Lavinia Norcross on January 9, 1849.

In the latter conveyance of property, the right was reserved to build a dam on the pond and flow water therefrom. The brook formed in that way, flows north through the so called Leonard G. Cushman, Lyman Miller, Wilson M. Tucker farms and through the Maguire property and forms Burdick Pond. Thence it goes across Mechanic Street to the old Henry Glinn Property and to the Sullivan Mill.

An overshot wheel was located at this point at one time, but was taken away long years ago, although the old raceway may be seen yet. Some men tell of rolling marbles down the old trough during their boyhood. The brook after crossing Mill and Main St., finally enters Chicopee Brook.

The place which is familiarly known as the "Sam Mack" place remained in the family until nearly 1912, passing from grandfather and his daughter Mrs. Smith to the grandsons.

It was sold to a Mr. Whitney by them, and by him the same year to George C. Flynt who began at once to improve it. Inside and out it was thoroughly renovated. New or rather old doors taken from Colonial houses replaced poor ones, a bathroom and china closet were built in, and old fireplaces opened up.

Fine antique furniture graced the rooms. The four poster sleigh beds, the quaint old piano, the blue dishes in the corner cupboard, the tall secretary, the sideboard and the desk are but a few of the many articles of value, as well as beauty that made it a veritable show place.

A secret cupboard gave me a thrill, and a meal cooked in the fireplace in the old utensils was most appetizing.

The dam was rebuilt and the pond stocked with pickere[and bullheads. Heron and wild ducks made homes there. Shrubbery was set out and the place had the appearance of being occupied. It was visited nearly every day, during warm weather by those who knew of its charm and in the winter, when skating was good, the young

people went up there in parties. Old style skates were furnished if desired, all were welcome to go into the house if they wished but the privilege was sometimes abused. Mr. Flynt named the place Mackmeadow.

Several years ago Mr. Flynt sold the property and it soon began to run down. It was raided for moonshine and finally deserted. Vandals broke the windows, smashed the pillars of the piazza, broke the china closets, even destroyed the bathtub, chopped through the floors and finally burned the building, whether by intent or accident is not known.

The fire was seen by many people between one and two but no alarm was given. The telephone operator was called, but could give no information nor could Fire Chief Murray. Information as to where the fire was did not reach the villagers until Tuesday p.m. The owner lives in Springfield. Whether there was insurance is not known."

1960 addition: This was later bought by Grover C. Eaton and the pond has been enlarged, dammed, and made into a summer resort known as Lake Paradise. There are also year around residents. Where one house stood there are now several.

FROM A LIBRARY SCRAPBOOK

Bates House where Sylvestus Marsh of "Old Peppersass Fame" was married. It may not be generally known that Sylvestus Marsh of "Old Peppersass Fame", courted and married for his first wife, Miss Charlotte Bates, daughter of James and his wife, Betsy Davison Bates at the old homestead on the Hovey road.

The Marshes had a son Frank and a daughter Mary. Son became a Civil Engineer and the daughter a teacher. She is recalled by the older generation as having taught in the "little Academy" for several years in the '70s and in the seventh grade at State Street within 30 years. During the latter part of her life she lived with Mrs. Minnie Clifford. She died at Palmer not five years ago.

Miss Mary another daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bates married Charles P. Fay — their daughter Mary Bates Fay married Henry O. Rindge, father of James E. Rindge of High Street and Alfred P. Rindge of Main Street. The latter recalls hearing the story of "Old Peppersass" told and retold in the family. He remembers Marsh's name being Sylvestus rather than Sylvester as the papers of late have had it.

Bates house, which has a part in this story was built in 1731 by one David Hyde according to records.

This name appears in the list of Selectmen of Monson in 1784, and in 1787 to 1791 and 1792 to 1795 as town clerk, again in 1791-1793 as Representative to the General Court. The 53 years between the house building and the office holding suggests the idea that they may have been a father and son of the same name. The house builder is spoken of as "a man of wealth and influence" who ran a grist mill on the Palmer side of the Quaboag River and was drowned there in 1806." Farm comprises 20 Acres.

Mr. Rindge says that Marsh, a New Englander by birth, went to Chicago and engaged in packing industry, amassed a fortune for the times.

About 1865 when he was about 61, he came to Littleton, N.H. to attend a political gathering of some sort. With his friends he climbed Mt. Washington one day and was lost. While spending the night in the bitter cold on the mountain, there was born in his brain the idea of a means of transportation up and down. The result was the traversing of the mountain side by a railroad $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles long to a point more than six thousand feet above sea level.

The son Frank was the engineer in charge of the road, which, as expressed by Literary Digest "was to be a new and easy way to the magnificent panoramic spectacle to be seen from the mountain top, heretofore available only at the expense of toil and hardship."

The railroad was three and a half years in the building. Meantime the elder Marsh had invented the pioneer steam mountain climber, a cog locomotive, Frank Marsh drafting the plans and overseeing its construction.

The locomotive was known as "Old Peppersass" and was used to push timber up the mountain for the trestle on which the railway was built. The opening of the road was July 1869, and was the first public appearance of the locomotive. Before this, much ridicule had been heaped upon it. But it worked faithfully and well for twelve years. On its 60th Anniversary it was to have made a last trip down the mountain before being given to the State of New Hampshire. But tragedy stalked in its path. It exploded when half way down killing a man and injuring others.

The Bates House is believed to have been the oldest in town up to the time it was burned by morons a few years ago on the night of July 3. The house was a good example of Colonial architecture. It was rich in fine woodwork, a corner cupboard being especially notable for its hand carving. The hardware was also valuable from the viewpoint of the antiquarian, but this was buried deep in the ruins.



BATES HOUSE

1926 NEWS CLIPPING

McCray blacksmith shop at Monson is on the market. It is an old landmark. In fact it is one of the oldest businesses in town. It is a conjecture whether some buyer may wish to continue the shop or to raze the building to make way for another

of a different sort. It is one of two shops left in the town where there were at least five, forty years ago. One by one of the others have fallen into decay; either on account of other interests of the owners or settling of estates. In recent years the patronage has diminished of course, owing to the coming of the automobile, but there are still horses left in Monson and they must be shod, and wagons must be repaired.

Interviews with old inhabitants and a perusal of old deeds dating from 1857, bring to mind half forgotten bits of interesting history. The building, considerably glorified from its original appearance was first located at the corner of Main and State Streets on the grounds of the new High School. The builder's name is not recalled, but previous to 1860 it was owned by Matthew Sutcliffe, father of Miss Kate Sutcliffe of East Hill. He moved it to near its present site. Early in the sixties, the town wishing to straighten the road at that point, raised \$50 to pay for moving the building to the west. The hill south of the present site extended much farther south than it does now, and Mr. Sutcliffe shoved the building as far into the bank as possible.

The first deed which shows the connection of Henry Aldrich with any part of the property is a warranty executed by Alfred Norcross in 1857, but not delivered until April 26, 1860.

It describes 42 rods of land in which the "post-road land of George Stowell" and a "cart path" figure. Hiram Newton was the witness to this deed. Of course the "post-road" meant the present Main Street. The "cart path" started near the Bartholomew Connell place on what is now Bridge Street. It crossed the railroad at grade, ran through the present property of Mrs. A. D. Ellis and followed present Green Street to the Corish house.

From there it went around the Hill, east of Green Street to the Marsden property and from there through to Main Street. Neither Bridge nor Green Street was laid out at this time. Mr. Aldrich tried to buy the blacksmith shop, but Mr. Sutcliffe declined to sell. So, on the land described in the deed, Mr. Aldrich built a shop, and, with his family, for a time occupied the second floor. In a few years, Mr. Aldrich succeeded in buying out Mr. Sutcliffe and then turned his original house into a barn, adding to it and for many years conducting a livery stable, building the house now owned by Elmer E. Thompson, fronting on Lincoln Street. Later he sold the Blacksmithing business to John Barry and Edward Fitzgerald.

Following his death, the shop was sold to Mrs. Eliza Robinson Dec. 6, 1881. She soon became Mrs. Lorenzo Hutchinson. Mr. Hutchinson carried on the shop, also carriage making and repairing, having raised and otherwise enlarged the building after the purchase of the adjoining property by Mrs. Hutchinson in 1887.

After Mr. Hutchinson passed away the entire property was sold to Orrin C. McCray. The little old house that stands northwest of the shop was moved from the site of the block occupied by Richard S. Hughes and Edward J. Lyons. It once bore the sign: "A. Green, Boot and Shoemaker".

The building standing north of the blacksmith shop is another landmark. The older residents will recall Pittee, who once ate four dozen eggs on a bet at Jeff's restaurant conducted in this building. Pittee was ever afterward known as the "Great American Egg Eater." For many years

Robert Murphy, Monson's good old shoemaker, plied his trade in the same building.

Memory also takes us back to the woman who lived in the tenement in the rear, who said one morning that she had been the night before to "see poor Mrs. Grady's remainders".

Mr. Aldrich's father was also a blacksmith and it is possible that the remains of the "old forge" may be seen on the farm owned by Charles Day of East Hill. The Tucker forge is within the memory of the present generation, and the Bliss Shop passed but a few years ago. The Burdick Shop combines blacksmithing with other work at present.



HAWK AND SNAKE

Picture Courtesy of Worcester Gazette
From newspaper clipping of May 6, 1960

MONSON — Fires in woods start in a number of ways but the one Thursday which set off six hours of blistering flame and choking smoke in the Colton Hollow area of Monson, between Hovey Hill and Stebbins Roads, was of a peculiar twist, according to Monson Fire Chief Lloyd Partelo.

A large hawk, carrying a four foot snake in its talons struck high tension wires of the New England Electric Co., causing a short circuit, and one of the high tension wires snapped, shooting sparks on the ground which set off the blaze in an isolated area. The snake and hawk were found near one of the poles, burned to a crisp, Chief Partelo said.

The broken high voltage wire caused power failures in Hampden and East Longmeadow Thursday afternoon until the necessary repairs were made. Chief Partelo estimated about 100 acres of dense woodland, brush and tall grass were burned over, sending billows of smoke into the sky that could be seen for miles.

Assisting about 60 firemen and volunteers from Monson and the nearby areas, was a state fire truck crew under the direction of Lucius Holton.

The blaze was reported shortly after the noon hour and burned all afternoon until Chief Partelo reported the blaze under control after 6 p.m.

The area where the fire was concentrated is uninhabited and there were no buildings or farmhouses in immediate danger. Hundreds of feet of hose were laid. Firemen and volunteers with watering cans, shovels and spades surrounded the blaze after more than six hours of hard work.

ACTS OF GOD

Monson has been the victim of three severe floods. The first occurred October 4, 1869, and created damages to the town amounting to between sixty and seventy thousand dollars, not counting the individual losses. One report states that every bridge and every dam were washed away; roads were badly gullied; and one factory was one-third undermined and another partially so.

On September 21, 1938, after several days of rain had soaked the earth and caused streams to overflow their banks, the hurricane struck with full force. This hurricane, the first to strike Western Massachusetts in many generations, began late in the afternoon and at its peak carried winds of more than 100 miles per hour. The town was without power and telephone communication for several days, and countless thousands of dollars were spent in bringing conditions back to normal, but the toll of trees will take many more decades to replace. One has but to examine early pictures of our beautiful tree-lined Main Street to realize what a terrific loss this has been to the town.

The third great flood began with rain on August 17, 1955, climaxing in a torrential downpour late Thursday night, August 18th. A recapitulation of the overall toll showed:

One dead. Francis W. Wytas, 33, was drowned during the height of the flood while on duty at the C. F. Church plant.

Property damage totaled \$3,900,000 of which 60% was incurred by two manufacturing firms, A. D. Ellis Mills, Inc. and C. F. Church Manufacturing Company.

Damages to the highways and bridges accounted for 35% of the total. Washouts or slides occurred on 75% of the town's 105 miles of highway. The roadbeds of Ely Road and Mill Street were totally destroyed.

Three bridges on Route 32, those at Maple Street, A. D. Ellis No. 3 plant, and Mill Street, were completely destroyed, as well as many more on the lesser traveled roads.

The town was completely isolated from all communication with the outside world for over twenty-four hours. The water mains, telephone and power lines all suffered heavy damage.

Thirty-five dwellings and three farms along Chicopee Brook suffered damage, as did many homes in other sections. More than 100 people were evacuated from the area along the river bank.

A Disaster Team from the American National Red Cross arrived as soon as roads were passable and spent more than one month investigating and assisting those families in the disaster area.



DEPACE PROPERTY AFTER FLOOD



ARMY ENGINEERS BAILEY BRIDGE



WASHOUT FROM ELY ROAD



BLIZZARD OF 1888



DAMAGE AT ELLIS NO. 1 MILL

The famous blizzard of 1888 did not keep George Flynt from hitching up the old white mare and exploring the countryside of Monson.



MONSON VICTORY BAND — 1920

Front Row: A Holdsworth, John Hirst, Albert Hirst, William H. Anderson, Edward Madelle. Second Row: A. Adams, Samuel Vennard, Daniel Kibbe, George Bowden, Follis Pero, Wilfred Kimber, Frank Lasbury. Top Row: H. Pero, Harold Moffett, Edgar Kemp, Homer Pero, Alfred Norcross, William Moffett, Ralph Entwistle, Everett Woods.



Firemen's Clambake about 1924 — Back row: :L to R. Myron Pease, Frank Sutcliffe, Albert Blanchard, Henry Pease, John McCarthy, Herbert Aldrich. Middle row: Henry Miller, Alfred Norcross, Arthur Noyes, Charles Osborn, Amos Jette. Front row: John Murray, Albert Stewart, John Crowley.



Monson Academy Football Team 1901 — Back row L to R: Carl Rand, Gene Matthews, Mike Crowley, Bill McGuire, Harry Leahy, Chas. Dunn, _____ Peyoff. Front row: Fred Sullivan, Walter Ballard, _____ Utz, Dudley Homer, Jim Murphy, _____ Nelson.



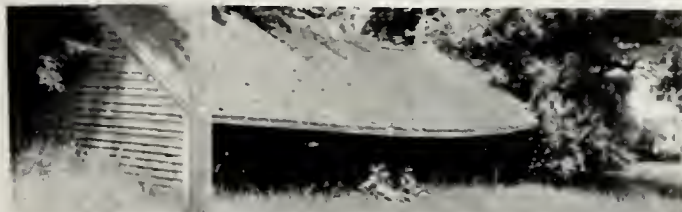
1952 New England Class A Prep School Champions. Back Row: L to R. Ullery, Duke-shire, Skypeck, Ford, Lolos. Front Row: Vlasak, Laferriere, Woods, Waflick, Swift, Coach Callahan.



The Monson High School Soccer Team of 1945 had a record of ten wins — no losses. Back row: Arnold Shields, Paul Galasso, Richard Knight, David Dewey, William Meacham, William Lewing, Ronald Hayden, Fisk Bacon. Front Row: William Partelo, William Hale, Francis Hayden, David Carew, Robert Gould, Clarence Brown. Coach Robert E. Moriarty.



Valley Wheel Champions 1940-1941. Back Row: May Hale, Coach Henry O. Holley, Edith Pease. Front Row: Marie Wytas, Mary Pinand, Lois Litz, Carolyn Talmadge, Jacqueline Pascale.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WAGON SHED



"MUSIC," TWENTY-YEAR OLD MARE OF ARABIAN DESCENT
Owned and driven for fifteen years by Dr. C. W. Jackson, Monson, Massachusetts



The Branch Mill Drum Corps of 1884
L to R: Hobbs, Williams, Abbot, Warren, Kendrick, Handy, Lighteday.



The seven-thirty pitch club: Front row: Charles Giffin, Edward Heintz, Allen Buffington, Arthur Makepeace. Back row: Peter Kearns, Dennis McMahon, William Anderson, Frank Blakeborough.



Springfield Outward common line stone, 1662; now line stone between Monson and Wilbraham.



Monson's Oldest Woman — Mrs. Ella Walker, who makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Laura Keith of Bethany Road, celebrated her 100th birthday November 25, 1958, at which time she received congratulations from President Eisenhower. In 1957 Mrs. Walker was presented the gold headed cane, donated by Police Officer Robert Chaffee, as the oldest lady in town. She is looking forward to her 102nd birthday celebration this November.

EDITED BY
JONAH, JR.

THE WHALER'S LOG.

PUBLISHED BY
The Pioneer Inland
Whaling Association.

Volume of Information.

AMIDSHIP, SUN AT MERIDIAN, 1881.

Number of Interesting Yarns.

THE MONSTER WHALE.

Exhibited to 1,034,975 People,

—BETWEEN—

Dec. 28, 1880, and May 21, 1881.

IN—

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis,
Cincinnati, Louisville, Columbus,
Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Buffalo,
Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, East
Saginaw, Bay City.



H. R. H., The Prince of Whales.

LENGTH, 60 FEET. ORIGINAL WEIGHT OVER 80,000 POUNDS!

THE MONARCH SUPREME OF THE OCEAN.

In a Perfect State of Preservation.

—THE—

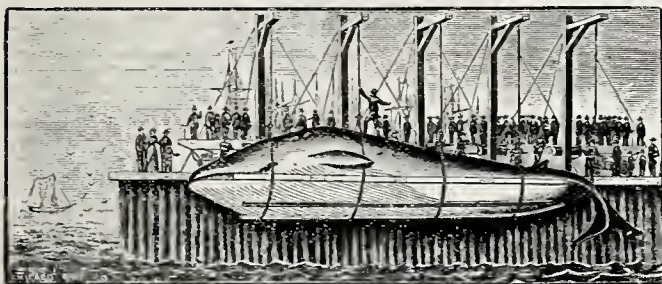
*Most Marvelous Achievement
in the annals of the Great
Art of the Naturalist.*



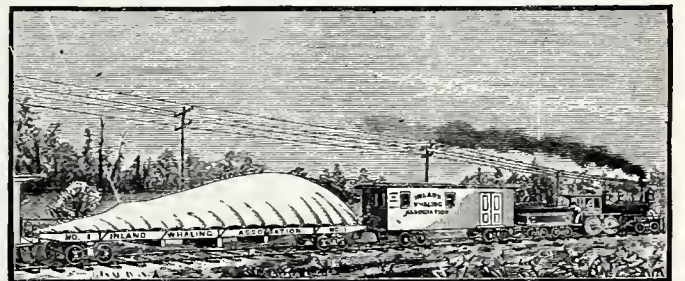
The Fatal Shot and Capture.



Towing the Prize Into Boston Harbor.



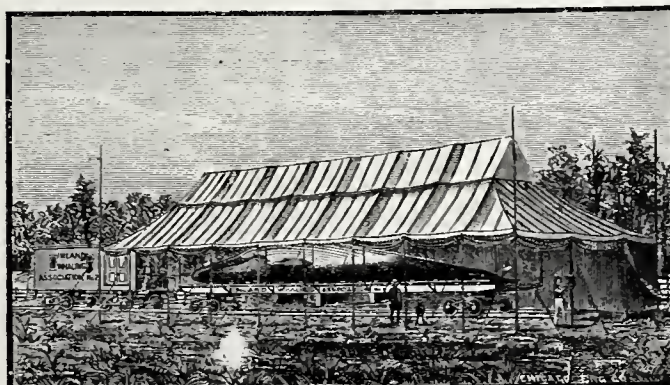
**The Mechanical Problem! Lifting H. R. H. Out of the
Water on to Two Platform Cars.**



**"Special Whale Express."
The Way H. R. H. Travels.**

*"Nothing in fiction
can compare with this
reality from the realms
of the Wonders of Na-
ture."*

*"An incomparable
lesson in Natural His-
tory for the old as well
as young."*



"Camp Baleine." Where H. R. H. Was Preserved to the World.

*This is the first, the
only one, and proba-
bly the last grand speci-
men of the real "right
Whale" you will have
the opportunity to see
in a lifetime.*

George H. Newton of Main St., was a partner in this venture, which lasted about six months and was ended by a Board of Health order in a Mid-West city.



FRANK BECKWITH WITH A HIGH-STEPPER



Jimmy Nichols, the outstanding one-armed professional golfer.



Monson State Police Barracks was erected in 1931 by the Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police.



The State Police force, organized in 1922, are the friends and protectors of people and property. A full complement consists of twelve men; one Sergeant, two Corporals and nine troopers. Sergeant Chester Ruszczyk and Trooper James Canty pose with one of the cruisers.

Program For The Day

PARADE 1:00 P.M.
 WILLIAM E. KASCHULUK Parade Marshal
 GOV. FOSTER FURCOLO Honorary Marshal
 FLAG RAISING By POST 241 3:00 P.M.
 NATIONAL ANTHEM Played by Westover Air Force Band
 Sung By: RICHARD CROWLEY and BUD PATTERSON
 SPAGHETTI DINNER 3:15 P.M.
 ENTERTAINMENT 3:30 P.M.
 JOHN LAFOND Master of Ceremonies
 PAUL BENOIT, State Senator Introduction
 WILLIAM S. KOSTER Talk on Jimmy Fund
 Executive Director, Jimmy Fund

Western Style Dancers

Monson and Ludlow Square Dancers
Redmen, Natick, Mass.

Jim Nichols — One-Armed Golfer

Sheila Gernon — Western Singing

Sons of Fun — Don Rondo

Big Brother — Bob Emery

Old Timers Baseball Game

Drill Competition
(Subject to Change)

DRAWING FOR PRIZES At Conclusion of Entertainment
 (Approximately 6:00 P.M.)

BAND CONCERT Westover Band — 6:15 P.M.

Jimmy Fund Day — Sunday July 27, 1958
 Honorary Chairman — Ted Williams
 General Chairman — Alexander Lolas and
 Patrick Morrell

Approximately \$5000 was turned over to the
 Children's Cancer Research Foundation from the
 proceeds of this event.



Mrs. Rachel Jenney advises a group on the construction of a relief map of Monson for use during the Bicentennial. Left to right: Thomas Billodeau, Thomas Kology, Mrs. Jenney, John Alden, Terry Donahue, James Holda, Dorothy Pascale and Linda Berube.



David Grieve and Norman Wytas supervise an Archery Class at the Springfield Sportsmen's Club grounds.



The community athletic field as it appeared soon after the work was completed in 1936 under the direction of the Works Progress Administration. By vote of the townspeople at the Town Meeting of March 1960, this will be dedicated as Veteran's Field at appropriate exercises to be held October 1, 1960.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Three women, all of whom have settled in Monson within the past fifteen years, have attained recognition in the field of literature. Ada (Mrs. Philip) Goepp of Stebbins Road had her first novel, *Small Pond*, published in 1956.

Mary R. Newland (Mrs. William) of South Hampden Road is the author of a series of books entitled: *We and Our Children*, *The Year and Our Children* and *The Saints and Our Children*. She has also written a book for children titled *Adventures of Catherine of Siena*, as well as illustrating many more, and is frequently in demand for lectures.

Dorothy R. Schneider (Mrs. William) of Wood Hill Road is Foods Editor of *St. Joseph Magazine*, writing a monthly article "In the King's Kitchen" under the pen-name of Sally Bradley. "A Story for Children" appears weekly in the *Springfield Sunday Republican* under the name of Maud Francis. Mrs. Schneider has had many articles and children's stories published in such magazines as *Highlights for Children*, *Humpty Dumpty's Magazine*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Nature Magazine*. An article appearing in *Yankee* has added local interest as the illustrations were photographs by Wilfred Kimber.

Following his retirement as office manager for the A. D. Ellis Mills Inc., Wilfred Kimber has continued his hobby of photography, specializing in the study of Nature.

As a member of the Photographic Society of America and camera clubs, he has received many awards and has lectured before

most of the larger camera clubs of New England. For the past two years Mr. Kimber has been an instructor in the Camera College conducted by the New England Camera Club Council.

Through his exhibition record in International Salons his name is well-known in photographic circles internationally.



Black Capped Chickadee — By Kimber

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols and their happy family at Camp All-Pine opened its thirty-second year in 1960 to carry on the work of helping underprivileged children of this area.

It has been a great source of satisfaction to Mr. and Mrs. James H. Nichols who are the directors of the camp to see so many boys and girls come to camp, stay a while and go home much better physically than when they arrived.

This has become possible through the



Wilfred Kimber



NICHOLS CAMP ALL-PINE GROUP

many friends who became interested in helping youngsters to a better and fuller life. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have been constant benefactors to the camp. Through the generous help of many friends, Camp All-Pine can point with pride to a number of projects carried to completion, such as two dormitories, a dining room, water supply, swimming pool and pavilion.

ORGANIZATIONS — 1960

Carrie A. Cushing Chapter O.E.S.
 Century Club
 Day Spring Lodge A.F. & A.M.
 Foresters of America
 Monson Button Club
 Monson Chapter American Red Cross
 Monson Circle King's Daughters and Sons
 Monson Garden Club
 Monson Historical Society
 Monson Lioness Club
 Monson Lions Club
 Monson Lodge I.O.O.F.
 Monson Rod and Gun Club
 Monson Women's Club
 Mount Ella Lodge A.O.U.W.
 Polish American Citizen's Club
 Quaboag Country Club
 Quaboag Rebekah Lodge
 Quaboag Motorcycle Club
 Rotary Club of Monson

PATRIOTIC GROUPS:

American Legion Post 241
 American Legion Auxiliary 241
 Marcus Keep Women's Relief Corp.
 Monson Barracks World War I

CHURCH GROUPS:

First Church of Monson, Congregational:
 Dorcas Society, Mr. and Mrs. Club,
 Hearts Willing Club, Men's Club

First Universalist Church:
 Association of Universalist Women
 Men's Club

Monson Methodist Church:
 Men's Club
 Women's Society for Christian Service

Saint Patrick's Church:
 Monson Council, Knights of Columbus
 Patricia Circle, Daughters of Isabella

YOUTH GROUPS:

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts,
 Explorer Scouts, Senior Girl Scouts
 4H Clubs — Garden, Dairy, Horse



QUABOAG COUNTRY CLUB



POLISH-AMERICAN CLUB



AMERICAN LEGION CLUB

Monson Historical Society



Annual meeting of the Monson Historical Society held April 23, 1960, at Heritage Hill in Holland. Standing L. to R: John Hanic, Leonard Harrington, Edna Sheriiff, Helen Colemnan, George Calkins, Grace Fay, Earl Coleman, Sara Carew, Robert Chaffee, Robert Fay, Beatrice Norcross, Carlos McCray, Evelyn Ball, Carlos Ball, Myron Pease, Ralph Moulton. Seated: Grace Makepeace, Dorothy Hanic, Myra Moulton, Roslyn Harrington, Helen Young, Lucy Makepeace, Mary Harris, Milton Makepeace, Barbara Chaffee, Arlen Hale, Elsie McCray.

Military Records

Neither history nor tradition has handed down to our time any tragic tale or record of any deadly conflict with the Indians such as happened at Brookfield, Springfield and Deerfield. The early settlers were annoyed by them, but not enough is known even to say "when or where or how."

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was engaged from 1744 to 1763 in wars that severely taxed the resources of the people. The early French and Indian war records of the men in the Monson area are, at first, so closely interwoven with that of the Mother Town of Brimfield, it has been difficult to separate or discern from the Muster Rolls which veterans belonged to this district. The census which was ordered taken in 1764 is not available. The earliest record of the inhabitants of Monson is the proprietor's list of 1774.

March 15, 1744, Louis XV declared war against Great Britain. It is known in European history as the War of the Austrian Succession; in New England annals as "the old French War." The only link

which has been found which connects this town with this war-famous in this country by the successful attack on Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, and its surrender, June 17, 1745, — is "John Keep served in the 9th Regiment under Col. Joseph Dwight in 1745 in this expedition. He never returned to his home on King's Hill and no one knows where he is buried."

Fort Massachusetts (now Adams) was seized by a force of nine hundred French and Indians in 1747. In the Massachusetts Archives (Vol. 92, page 49) is a list of sixteen officers and men impressed at Brimfield and "sent to the Western Frontiers for Defence in the Time of the Alarm in June 1747." The following men named on this list lived in what is now the Monson area: Captain James Merrick, Samuel Kilborn, Marke Ferry and Humphrey Gardner.

1756, June 9th, war was again declared against England by Louis XV. This Seven Year War, so called in European history, ended February 10, 1763, by the Treaty of Paris. The war on this continent commenced somewhat earlier and is known as

Colony of the
Massachusetts-Bay.

The Major Part of the COUNCIL of the Massachusetts-Bay, in
New-England,

To, Simeon Keep Gentlemen Greeting.

YOU being appointed *first Lieutenant of the ninth Company whereof Roderick W. W. is Captain*
in the first Regiment of Militia in the County of Hampshire whereof the Pyrethron is the Colonel
By Virtue of the Power vested in us, WE do by these Presents, (reposing special Trust and
Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage, and good Conduct,) Commission you accordingly.—You
are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a *first Lieut.* in leading, or-
dering, and exercising said *company* in Arms, both Inferior Officers and Soldiers; and to keep
them in good Order and Discipline.—And they are hereby commanded to obey you as their
first Lieut. and you are yourself, to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions as you
shall from Time to Time receive from the major part of the Council or your
superior Officers.

GIVEN under our hands and the Seal of the said Colony, at Watertown the
Thirteenth Day of June in the Year of our Lord, 1776.

By the Command of the
Major Part of the Council.

John Lowell Secy.

J. Bowdoin
W. W. W.
W. Spomer
Caleb Clapham
J. W. W.
R. W. W.
F. W. W.
John White
S. H. H.
B. W. W.
H. W. W.
J. W. W.
B. W. W.
S. W. W.
H. W. W.

the French and Indian War.

Year after year armies were raised in New England. Five companies from this area were engaged in these French and Indian conflicts.

1. A Muster Roll of the company in His Majesty's service under the command of Captain Daniel Burt on Crown Point Expedition March 30, 1755 - January 3, 1756. (Mass. Archives, Vol. 94, page 90) Corporal Jabez Keep, Robert Dunkley, Jr., and Thomas Blodgett appear on this list from the Monson area.

Of note is a document found among some papers in an old trunk, consisting of three old folded leaves from an account book marked "Moses Baggins Booklet." This gives the account of the men who were killed and wounded at Lake George, September 8, 1755.

In Captain Daniel Burt's Company, Samuel Livermore was listed as killed; and William Janes, John Hallowell, William Gordon, Thomas Walton, John Burt, and Elijah Mighill were wounded.

2. In Volume 94, page 45 (Mass. Archives) is a document signed, Boston, March 20, 1756, which lists 54 men who served in Captain Ebenezer Moulton's Company - expedition to Crown Point in Colonel Pomeroy's regiment - service September 11 to December 10, 1755. Twelve weeks, three days - wages 4L.2S.10D. Travel from Albany, 120 miles, took eight days. The following men are the only ones recorded as living in this district: Sergeant Joseph Munger, Corporal Phineas Mirick, Corporal Aaron Graves, Thomas Riddle, Joseph Moulton and Jonathan Frost.

3. A list of men in Captain Trustram Davis' Company in Col. Dwight's regiment, Crown Point expedition, mustered into service October 11, 1756. (Mass. Archives, Book 94, Page 557). This company was composed of 36 men; 23 of them from Brimfield, of whom three were from the Monson area: Joseph Foot, drummer; Joseph Moulton and John Davis.

4. Muster Roll of a Company of foot in His Majesty's service under the command of Daniel Burt in a regiment raised by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, for the reduction of Canada whereof William Williams is Colonel from March 13 to November 20, 1758. (Mass. Archives, Vol. 96, pages 384 to 386). One hundred men were in this company; 49 from

Brimfield, four of whom belonged to the Monson district: Sergeant Aaron Merrick, Richard Bishop, Jonathan Molton and John Rosebrook."

Also in service in this same company from April 14 to November 13, 1759, were Paul Hitchcock, Isthm King, Peter Groves, John Shaw, Peter Fuller and Reuben Hoar.

5. A Muster Roll of the company in His Majesty's service, under the command of Trustrum Davis, from February 14, to December 16, 1760, (Mass. Archives, Vol. 98, pages 271-274) includes Corporal Peter Fuller, Leonard Hoar, Jonathan Torrey, David Torry and John Davis from Monson.

It would take much further genealogical study to ascertain any more veterans of these wars. The Historical Society would welcome proven data in this field to aid in later genealogical filings.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Town Records show several actions taken to provide assistance and loyalty during the Revolution.

As early as Dec. 29, 1774 it was:

"Voted to approve of the Choice of Commissioned officers in this place (Viz) Freeborn Moulton, Capt.: Nath'll Sikes, Leuit.; David Hitchcock, Ensign. Voted to Refer to the above officers that they make up a quota of minute men, train one Day in Each fortnight till the first of April next, and that they have one Shilling Each per Day for their Service."

"Voted Noah Sabin, Jonath Coye, James Blodget, James Stebbins and Stephen Hatch to be a Committee to See That the measures Recommended by the Continental Congress are fully Complied with."

Jan. 12, 1775 it was voted,

"To provide the minute men with all necessary accoutrements Except arms. Voted if the men are Called into Service at their Return Shall be Liable to Return all the Warlike Stores they received, that are not Nessessarily Expended to a Committee for that purpose."

The people of Monson were of one mind and heart in their devotion to liberty. Monsonians were earnest in their sympathy for Boston, when suffering in consequence of the Port Bill, and sent a contribution to aid the people in their distress. The letter sent by a bearer with "the small present from the inhabitants of the small district of Monson", is a most interesting document.

It is printed in the Massachusetts Historical Collections, Volume 4th., 4th. Series, and shows that although the district was 'small', its people were plucky. It was addressed to the donation committee of Boston, of which Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren were members, and was signed by Benjamin Munn, Abel Goodell and Noah Sabin. This letter was dated April 5th., 1775, fourteen days before the Battle of Lexington, and it contained the following words:

"We send a testimonial of our firm adherence to the great cause you have asserted, in which everything dear to us is embarked. We would not be found wanting in affording our utmost assistance to those involved in penury, on account of public liberty, and in vindication of our just rights. We profess a ready cheerfulness to shed our blood, to oppose tyranny and oppression, much more to part with our substance to help our suffering friends."

Appended to the letter was a note as follows:

"N.B. — We have eighty fellows in this district, a great part of whom are disciplined and excellent marksmen. I dare to be bold to say that, at about thirty rods distant, they would pick up Tories as fast as so many hawks would pick frogs from a frog pond."

The expected break came April 19, 1775, at Concord and Lexington, and swift couriers carried the message from town to town. As soon as it reached Monson, Captain Freeborn Moulton collected his band of Minute Men and marched to Cambridge, where plans were laid for the siege of Boston. Thus was begun the War for Independence.

Up to March 1776, town meetings were called in the name of "His Majesty", but in May the call was — "In observance of the Colony Writ." In June it read, "By resolve of the General Court." May 24 A.D. 1776, "Voted unanimously for Independency". June 24, 1776, "Voted to abate the Highway Rates of those Soldiers in the Continental Service." May 23, 1777, "Voted give each man that shall enlist into Continental Army and passes muster, twenty Pounds to the number of twenty-five men." June 26, 1778, "Voted to Raise 420 pounds to pay the Continental Soldiers that are hired for the Term of nine months." May 17, 1779, "Voted for a New form of Government."

June 25, 1779, "Voted to give each man that shall Enlist into the Continental Service for the Term of Nine months from the

Time they land at Springfield twelve pounds bounty to be paid in grain while at four Shillings pr Beuchell, Rye at three Shilling pr Beuchell, and Indian Corn at two Shillings pr Beuchell, and forty Shillings pr month to be paid at the same Rate as above mentioned in grain. The soldier is to have the Continantal Wages which is forty Shilling pr month, and the Town to have the States Bounty which is sixty pounds for each man. One half of the above mentioned grain is to be paid by the first of January next, the other half is to be paid when their Times are out."

Aug. 17, 1779, "Voted Major Reuben Munn a Delegate to meet the Delegates from the Several Towns in this State for the Sole Purpose of forming a Constitution or form of government said Convention to be holden at Cambridge on September 1, 1779."

June 20, 1780, "Voted that Six months men be hired upon the Town Cost. Voted that the Committee also hire 13 miletia men for three months upon the Same Futting of the Six months men. Voted to give the Six months men twenty pounds as a hire on their producing a sertificate they have Don the Service and the Soldier to be accountable to the Town for his Wages — the Twenty pound Stated on Whete at four Shillings pr Bushel, Rye at three Shillings, Indian Corn at two Shillings pr Bushel, or the Valliue theirof in money to become Due, When their time of Service is out."

Oct. 16, 1780, "Voted Mr. Noah Sabin, Mr. Samuel Hoar and Luit Simeon Keep to be a committee to Procuer 5180 lbs. of Beaf for the Continantal Army. Voted to Draw the money to pay for the Beef out of the 40,000 pounds Rate which is assessed to pay the Soldiers the Present Year."

Jan. 4, 1781, "Voted Mr. Samuel Mechom, Mr. Joseph Holm to be Committee to Provide the beef alloted to this Town."

Dec. 21, 1780, "Voted Mr. Elijah Chandler, Mr. Stephen Hatch, Deacon Abel Goodell, Mr. Asa White, Jose Merrick, Mr. Colomon Rood, Mr. William King, Mr. David Shaw, Mr. Freeborn Molton, Mr. Joseph Butler be a committee to hire the Continantal men for this Town."

July 30, 1781, "Voted to give the Eight three months men four Pounds per month for the time they are in Actual Service Including A Reasonable time for them to march to and from Camp. The Town to be Intitled to their wages and the Soldier to furnish the Town with an order to Draw them."

The book committee of the Monson Historical Society screened the fifteen volumes of *The Men Who Served in the American Revolution*. The following is a list of men whose addresses were given as Monson..

James Dorman, soldier of Burgoyne's Army is buried at Moulton Hill. Tradition has it — "Dorman was forced into the

British Army while at school in England. He was one of those deserting while on the way to Boston for deportation after Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga. He hid, and spent his life near Moulton Hill.

The Town can well be proud of so many loyal citizens who fought to give us our heritage of Liberty.

Atchenson, Joshua
Allen, Abel
Ames, Zenas
Atwood, Jesse
Baker, Robert - disabled
Barnes, William
Belknap, John Jr.
Bishop, Richard
Bliss, Josiah
Blogget, James Ensign
Blodgett, Joseph
Blodgett, Joshua
Blodgett, James, Lieut.
Blodgett, Thomas
Bliss, Jacob
Bradford, George
Bradway, Abel
Bradway, Richard
Bradway, William
Brown, Andrew
Brown, Abner, Col.
Brown, John
Brown, Robert
Bullard, Josiah
Burdick, Sylvanus
Bush, Asabel
Butler, Samuel
Butler, Nathaniel, Lieut.
Burnet, Daniel, Lieut.

Cooch, Nathan
Chapin, Jonathan, Capt.
Chapin, Jonathan, Lieut.
Colton, George
Colton, Joseph
Colton, Gad, Capt.
Colton, Charles, Capt.
Craft, Joseph —
died in the army 1777
Crem, Jonathan, Sergt.
Coye, Jonathan, Lieut.
Coye, David, Sergt.
Coye, Wyllis

Day, Samuel, Corp.
Davidson, Ebenezer
Davidson, Nathan
Davis, John
Dunkley, Robert
Dorman, James - soldier
of Burgoyne's Army

Ferry, Charles

Fuller, Abraham, Lieut.
Fuller, Nathaniel
Fuller, James
Fuller, Peter
Fullers, Joshua, Lieut.
Flynt, Rufus, Capt.
Frost, Jonathan
Foot, Joseph - Drummer

Goodell, Abel
Groves, Samuel
Goodell, Eliphalet, Lieut.
Graves, Aaron
Gardner, Humphrey
Goodman, Noah
Grout, Joseph
Grout, Dr. Joseph

Hoar, Daniel
Hoar, Edmund
Hoar, Samuel, Lieut.
Hoar, Reuben, 2nd. Lieut.
Hoar, Nathan, 2nd. Lieut.
Hitchcock, Jonathan
Hyde, David, Capt.

Ives, Jesse, Rev.

Jennings, Abel

King, William
Kibbe, Ephraim
Kibbe, Jacob
Knights, Uriah
Keep, Josiah, Corp.
Keep, Simeon, Lieut.
Keep, Caleb, Capt.
Keep, Moses
Keep, Jabez, Corp.

Lynes, Issac, Lieut.

Mann, Benjamin
Mann, Jeremy
Marsh, Nathan
Mason, Elisha
May, Rufus
Meacham, Frederick
Merrick, Jesse, Capt.
Merrick, Phineas
Merrick, Royal, Sergt.
Mighells, Thomas
Mighills, Thomas, Corp.

Mighills, Timothy
Mixer, Daniel
Mixer, John
Mixture, Ezra
Morgen, Gideon
Moulton, Abner, Corp.
Moulton, Calvin
Moulton, Daniel
Moulton, Elijah
Moulton, Freeborn, Capt.
Moulton, John B., Corp.
Moulton, Jonathan
Moulton, Joseph, Sergt.
Munn, Jeremiah, Capt.
Munn, Joseph
Munn, Rueben, Col.
Munn, Calvin
Munn, Lewis
Munger, Amasa
Munger, Darius, Corp.
Munger, Jehiel, Lieut.
Munger, Joseph

Needham, Abner
Needham, Joseph
Needham, Stephen
Nelson, Elijah
Nelson, Solomon
Newhall, Stephen
Newell, Abijah Jr.
Nichols, Malachi
Nichols, William
Newton, Stephen

Peckham, Phillip, Lieut.
Perry, Reuben
Persons, Elias
Parker, Henry
Puffer, William
Puffer, Timothy

Riddle, Thomas
Riddle, Joseph
Riddle, Jos., Fifer
Reed, James
Rogers, Abishal
Rogers, Ishmael
Rogers, Nathaniel Sr.,
Corp.
Rogers, Nathaniel Jr.
Rogers, Robert
Rood, Ezra
Rosbrook, John

Sabin, Noah
 Sabin, Abishai, minister
 Sabin, Silvanus
 Stebbins, James, Lieut.
 Stebbins, Jesse
 Stebbins, Thomas, Lieut.
 Shaw, John, Lieut.
 Shaw, Joshua, Capt.
 Shaw, Jos'h
 Shaw, James
 Shaw, William
 Shed, Jonathan
 Shields, David L., Capt.
 Shields, John

Sikes, Nathaniel, Lieut.
 Sikes, Nathan
 Shurman, Revel
 Smith, Lemuel
 Spauldwin, Jonathan
 Squire, Daniel
 Squire, John
 Stacy, William
 Stacy, Simon

 Townsly, Nicanor, Fifer
 Truesdell, Thomas
 Tupper, Albert
 Tupper, Ezra

Tupper, Ichabod Sr.
 Tupper, William, Col.
 Trask, Daniel
 Trask, Peter
 Trask, Samson, Corp.
 Torrey, Jonathan
 Tucker, Ezra

 Vinton, Pelatiah

 Wood, Stephen
 White, Abijah
 Wakefield, Walker

SHAY'S REBELLION

The people of Monson, during the time of the Shay's Rebellion, 1786-87, were on the side of law and order. At the close of the Revolution the State debt amounted to more than 1,300,000 pounds, and there was due to the Massachusetts officers and soldiers not less than 250,000 pounds. Every town was also in debt for supplies it had furnished its soldiers.

After every war there is a period of readjustment. During this time both Federal and State Governments had to be established, as well as a new form of currency. The New Emission money and Old Continental money had no stabilized value. Several times it was voted to pass over the article regarding paying the town debts. On September 17, 1787, it was "Voted that it is the minds of the town that their Representative Does not attend the General Court any more the present year," which shows a general unrest.

There was no general insurrection until the summer of 1786, but as early as 1783 a bold attempt was made at Springfield to break up the session of the court of "Common pleas." Daniel Shays, Luke Day and Eli Parsons lead groups of an insurgent force of armed men. On the 25th of January, 1787, Shays moved upon Springfield Arsenal, against General Shepard.

There was not any battle. The only firing was on the government side. Only five shots were fired which put the whole of Shays' column in the utmost confusion. Three of Shays' men were killed and one wounded. Shays made several attempts to reorganize his force, but he finally fled to New Hampshire and his followers scattered.

Monson again helped protect the Govern-

ment—for we find on the "Pay Roll for Capt. John Sherman's Company of Militia in Col. Gideon Burt's Regiment that marched to Springfield in September 1786 for the defense of Government (Book 192, page 90), Willis Coye, Daniel Shaw and Luther Danielson from our town.

Book 192, page 91 (Massachusetts Archives, Capt. John Sherman's Co. of Militia in Col. Gideon Burt's regiment marched to Springfield in support of the Government, January 17, 1787—service 24 days." Those listed from Monson are Serj. David Blodget, Willis Coy, Jacob Hoar, Gad Maghill, Daniel Shaw, Thomas Cooley, and Luther Danielson.

In Capt. Joseph Hoar's Co. in Gideon Burt's regiment January 17, 1787—service 24 days (Book 191, page 277) we find Richard Bishop, Jabez Nichols, John McKinstry, John Holmes, Edward Holmes, and Tephaniah Rood taking part in the Springfield episode, in defense of the Government.

WAR OF 1812

During the five years immediately preceding the War of 1812-15 the whole country was in a state of normal peace, but still the town records show that preparations were continually made to protect the country against any insurrection or foreign war.

May 4, 1790, it was voted — "to Raise thirty pounds to be laid out in gunpowder or ledden Balls and flints proportionally in order to Equip the Militia of This Town and those of this Town that belong to the Troop of Horse."

August 1794, it was voted — "to give the Soldiers that are Raised as this Towns proportion of the Eighty Thousand Men ordered to Raised by Congress. Two dollars as a Bounty and if called into Service to have the Continental pay made up to

forty Shillings per Month."

September 10, 1808, "voted to appropriate \$60 of the towns money towards supporting the soldiers on the anticipated muster to Hadley."

In February, 1812, four months before the formal declaration of war, Congress passed an act providing for the organization of 25,000 men for an army, and the following April 100,000 of the nation's enrolled militia was called upon for active service.

The people of the town had no sympathy with this War of 1812, and adopted

John Hoar - Major
Issac Fuller - Capt.
David H. Childs - Sergeant
Erastus Darley - Sergeant
Privates
Alvord, Luther
Barrows, William
Benchard, Seneca
Bennet, Calvin
Bennett, Eben
Bradish, Henry
Bradway, William (2nd)
Brown, Abner
Brown, James
Bunt, Sabin

Butler, Ebenezer
Chaffee, Freeborn
Cone, Mathew
Cooley, Aretus
Cooley, Asher
Cross, Lyman
Fay, William
Hall, Bryant
Mixon, Daniel Jr.
Moulton, Abel
Moulton, Abiel
Moulton, Mace
Persons, Quartus
Reed, Jason
Richardson, Lewis

Rider, Elisha
Russell, Charles
Sherman, Joseph Jr.
Squire, Charles Jr.
Squire, John
Squier, Solomon Jr.
Squier, William
Stacy, Alfred
Stanton, Palmer
Stebbins, James
Switches, Timothy
Thayne, Luther
Tupper, Spencer
Williams, Joshua
Wiswell, David

CIVIL WAR

The Civil War 1861-65, some call it the War for the Preservation of the Union, others call it the War between the States, others the War to Free the Slaves.

On April 12, 1861, the voice of the cannon demanded the surrender of the United States forces at Fort Sumter, S.C. This aroused the North as from a trance, and there was but one cry "The Union, It Must and Shall Be Preserved."

On the 3rd of May, 1861, President Lincoln called for some 40,000 volunteers for three years' service, and Massachusetts was to furnish six regiments.

On July 17, 1862, a great war meeting was held in the Congregational Church. Monson was making a great effort to fill her quota for Lincoln's call. Eighty-four able bodied men enlisted, among whom was Marcus Keep, in honor of whom the Grand Army Post and the Women's Relief Corps took their titles.

Most of the men were assigned to the 10th, 27th, 34th, 36th, and 46th, regiments. Company E of the thirty-sixth had sixty-five men from Palmer and Monson. Col.

resolutions against it. However, we find at the Massachusetts Archives a list of Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in the War of 1812. They were raised at Monson and vicinity and served at Boston.

Capt. I. Fuller's Company, Lieut. Col. Enos Foot's Regiment From September 10 to November 7, 1814. There were twenty-seven men on this list who are recorded in the Brimfield History as coming from that Town and two from Wilbraham. We are assuming the rest came from Monson, at least they enrolled from here.

Stephen C. Warriner of Monson went out with the company as Captain. They left Sept. 2, 1862, and were mustered out June 8, 1865.

About half a company also went in company G of the 46th. regiment, Capt. Francis D. Lincoln of Brimfield commanding and George H. Howe of Monson was lieutenant. He was afterwards captain in the 57th regiment, and was killed at Petersburg. His sword was presented to the Grand Army Post.

Perhaps the excitement and tragedies of the war may best be expressed by some of the letters from the men in service.

A letter from Charles Carpenter, dated Antietam, October 5, 1862 — He writes — "The universal wish is that the war might be closed soon and a *great* many are sick of the job. Gen. Burnside's whole corps was reviewed last Friday by President Lincoln and Major Gen McClellan and I had the pleasure of seeing those 3 notabilities riding side by side. Burnside's Corps here will probably no. from 20 to 30,000 men, perhaps more, but come to see them it don't look very large, after all 1,000 men can be placed on half an acre easily."

Co. E 36th. Reg. A Mass. Vol.

Ninth Army Corps.

Charles Carpenter was mustered in as a Corporal of Co. E 36th, Mass. Reg.'t July 17, 1862, the same day his cousin Marcus Keep and two others of his schoolmates from District No. 4. He died at Crab Orchard, Kentucky Sept. 26, 1863.



CHARLES CARPENTER

The letters of Marcus Keep have been published several times, the first time in the Springfield Republican December 16, 1906, so we will only include his last one.

In a letter from Fairfax Seminary Hospital near Alexandria, Va., under date of May 29, 1864, Marcus Keep writes:

"As you have not heard from me for some time I thought I could not do better than to forward you a line. I have to write in a rather uncomfortable position, but I am getting used to being uncomfortable. But what's the harm? It can't last; only 15 months from today, if I live and the Lord is willing, I shall be at home again. I have found that there is nothing very funny about being shot, even if it is not very bad. I shall never forget how that ball felt when it struck me. I couldn't walk and I stood and thought it over. Soon three or four of the boys came to me and told me it was better for me to sit down. The doctor put a rag around my leg, which was bleeding very freely, and four men put me on a stretcher and started for the hospital about two miles off. They carried me about

half way and then found an ambulance that carried me the other half. I was glad to get off the men's shoulders for I knew they were about tired out.

"I have felt pretty well since I was wounded, but have not eaten much. If I could only go out of doors and walk around. I shall feel tip-top, and I am in hopes that in the course of a few days I shall be out on crutches."

The surgeon who examined the wound at the field hospital did not regard it as very serious, pronouncing it merely a flesh wound. When Fairfax Seminary Hospital was reached, the knee was so badly swollen that its condition could not be known, but after the swelling had been reduced it was found that the bones had been shattered and that gangrene had set in. As soon as possible after this condition was known it was decided to amputate the leg, hoping thus to save his life. But the delay had been fatal and death soon followed the operation.

Letters from the chaplain spoke of the courage shown by the wounded man. When he was told that death was near, he met his fate bravely, sending farewells to the friends at home, expressing his willingness to die and his belief in a future life. Marcus Keep answered the final roll call June 9,



MARCUS KEEP

1864, and his body some months later was brought back to Monson, the town he loved.

As the records show sixteen of our men were killed in battle or died of wounds. After the war was over, many of the service men took up land in the West which the Government granted to them which explains why so many are not recorded in the G.A.R. book. They did not return to their home town, but sought other fields.

Aldrich, John C. G.A.R.
Amidon, Charles L.
Allen, Alonzo
Alberty, James F. G.A.R.

Bumstead, George F.
Billings, George W.
Butler, Dwight E.
Bradway, Truman C.
Bradway, Rodney
Burley, Jacob G.A.R.
Ball, Thomas
Beebe, Warren
Bond, Sandford C.

xBlack, John
*Barber, Henry W.
xBlanchard, Tyler
xButler, Samuel H.

Clark, Loren H.
Cadwell, Frank E.
xCarpenter, Charles C.
Clough, Charles F.
*Colburn, Dwight
Clark, Joseph
Charles, Leonard G.A.R.

Charles, William
Carey, Edmund
*Carey, Frederick G.
Calkins, Franklin G.
Calkins, Herbert H.
Clough Gurnsey A.
xCrosby, James

Donohue, Michael
Donohue, Morris
Donahue, Timothy G.A.R.
Dixon, George S.
Davis, Josiah B. G.A.R.
xDavis, Wareham
Dunbar, George G.
xDrake, Eleazor C.
Darling, Willard G.A.R.
Darling, George D.

*Ellis, George

Fales, George A.
Fales, Helon H.
Flynt, John L. G.A.R.
Fenton, Osborn
Frost, Henry T.

CIVIL WAR

The Town of Monson
Places and inscribes
these Tablets

In grateful appreciation of the
Valor and Patriotism
of her Volunteers
who served the cause of
National Unity
in the war of the
Rebellion

1861

1865

xFrost, John A.
Fay, William B.
xFoskit, William F.
Ferry, Ezra
Fowle, George F.

Gage, Alvin A. G.A.R.
Gage, Lovell L.
Gage, James W. H.
*Gage, Moses G.
xGreene, George M.

Hughes, Thomas
Hovey, Oliver D.
*Howe, George H.
Harmon, James M.
Hitchcock, Henry H.
Hoar, John Q.
Harris, Silas N. G.A.R.
Henry, George O.
Holdridge, George F.

Johnson, George W.

*Keep, Marcus G.A.R.
King, James M.
Keefe, Francis P.



G.A.R. On The March, Decoration Day, 1906

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| King, Frank H. | Park, Francisco C. G.A.R. | Stacey, George E. |
| King, William H. G.A.R. | Potter, Edward F. | Stacey, George W. |
| King, Wyles A. G.A.R. | Perry, Frederick L. | Tupper, Henry M. |
| Kittredge, Charles B. | Peck, Ira L. | *Tupper, Albert |
| Knowlton, James M. | Perry, Oliver H. | Truden, John B. |
| | Poole, Munroe M. | Toohey, Isaac |
| *Lester, George H. | *Pierce, Harrison | Tyler, Charles E. |
| Lester, William | Pierce, Warren | Trumbull, Lyman |
| Lanphear, Merrick | Pierce, Solomon | Tiffany, Bela B. |
| Lemon, Francis E. G.A.R. | Phillips, George A. | |
| Letter, John G.A.R. | Pond, Elbridge C. | Underwood, Charles H. |
| Lang, William | Powers, William | |
| | | xWard, George E. |
| Munsell, Elijah | Rider, Hiram A. | West, Allen S. |
| Moody, George H. | Robbins, Charles H. | Wallace, Alanson |
| Moody, Harlan B. | Root, Henry | Wallace, James |
| Maguire, John C. G.A.R. | Root, Edward | *Walker, Silas |
| Moran, John | Root, George | Warriner, Alfred E. |
| Moran, Nicholas | | Warriner, Joseph R. |
| Mailhouse, Lewis | *Skidmore, William | Warriner, Stephen C. |
| *Morgan, Andrew J. | * Skidmore, Charles | Wilson, Orrin H. |
| Morgan, Romanzo A. | Stebbins, Justus G.A.R. | Wood, Emerson G.A.R. |
| xMcNancy, Morris | *Smith, William O. | Wood, Francis A. |
| McNall, Gilbert | Sanford, Cornelius | Wood, Francis N. G.A.R. |
| McIntire, David | Stanton, Henry | Wood, George E. |
| McMaster, William C. | Spear, William H. | Wood, Henry H. G.A.R. |
| G.A.R. | Smith, William G.A.R. | Wood, Myron R. |
| | Smith, Homer A. | |
| xNichols, Alvin S. | *Skinner, Alonzo | |
| Newton, Alfred J. | Skinner, George G.A.R. | * Killed in Battle or died |
| Nelson, Willard G.A.R. | Skinner, George N. | of wounds |
| Newport, Erastus | Skinner, Harvey C. | |
| Nevins, Joseph | Stacey, James L. | x Died of disease |

The citizens best remember the G.A.R. men in blue, for they have watched them proudly march in many parades. Who hasn't shed a tear while watching their banners passing by? The youths of the early 1900's had the privilege of learning the stories of War from these honored men, for each year they would retell their experiences to the school children. The Marcus Keep Post, No.



155 G.A.R. of Monson received its charter from the State, May 18, 1883. The Post started with forty-four members, but reached to over one hundred. The Post disbanded in 1924. Francis E. Lemon was the last Civil War Veteran in Monson. He passed away February 21, 1940.



FRANCIS E. LEMON

In 1944 the Monson Library was presented a beautifully engraved book, entitled "Personal War Sketches", which contains each G.A.R. member's war service. It was presented to the Marcus Keep Post by Mrs.

Oral Munn Reynolds, on August 11, 1890. Civil War Veterans who were members of the Marcus Keep Post No. 155 whose names do not appear on the bronze plaques at the Memorial Town Hall.

G.A.R.

Abbott, Charles A.
Aldrich, John R.
Anderson, Amos S.

Bacon, Marble F.
Barton, John M.
Bliss, Loren A.
Bliss, Henry M.
Bradshaw, William
Brockbank, John
Brown, John W.

Carney, John
Casey, Thomas
Chapin, Harlow
Closson, Samuel
Cushman, Mahlon D.

Darling, Esek R.

Fay, William M.
Felton, Daniel A.
Field, Albert W.
Foskit, George, Capt.
Fuller, George E., Doctor

Gardner, Eli J.
Gerald, Thomas F.
Griswold, William T.

Hacket, Peter
Harvey, George A.
Hanley, Martin
Hobbs, Amos
Hodge, Andrew L.
Holmes, Cyrus W.
Hyde, Oliver

Jedowin, T., wounded

Landers, Charles
Lathrop, William
Lemon, Francis L.

Meacham, William G.
Miller, Wallace T.
Mills, Thomas J.
McEwin, James

Naughton, Henry J.
Needham, Eugene
Nelson, Ira M.
Noyes, Henry N.

O'Brien, Michael
O'Keefe, Daniel

Pease, John A.
Potter, William R.
Pratt, Oren

Rice, William H.
Ricketts, William J.
Rood, Warren L.
Ryther, E. E.

Severy, George M.
Shields, Patrick
Smith, Orlando P.
Squier, Henry J.
Switzer, O. C.

Thompson, George
Thrall, Edwin A.

Underwood, Charles H.
Underwood, Henry H.

Watson, William
Wilder, Eugene E.
Wilcox, Moses B.
Williams, Martin V. B.



G.A.R. 1885

Dr. Fuller wrote in his "Memoirs of a Civil War Veteran" — "I was assigned to the Army Medical Museum at Washington, D. C. where I was when the Rebellion collapsed amid unparalleled national rejoicings, so soon to be clouded by the dastardly assassinations of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward. Later, I witnessed the hanging of five conspirators at the Navy yard and finally the grand review, which was for two days passing company front, down Pennsylvania Avenue at the National Capitol.



DR. GEORGE FULLER

The Union and Confederate soldiers entertained no personal animosity and when armed Rebellion ceased, nothing remained as between the late combatants, save profound respect and admiration each for the courage and heroism of the other, and gratitude that the fratricidal war was ended."

Marcus Keep Woman's Relief Corps No. 145, sponsored by Marcus Keep Grand Army Post No. 155, was organized on October 23, 1891, with 64 charter members. Mrs. Susan Thrall was installed as the first president.

Its purpose was to assist the Grand Army of the Republic and veterans of all wars. The Corps' members at Memorial time assisted the Post in the making of evergreen wreaths and filling baskets of flowers to be placed on veteran's graves in all cemeteries of the town.

One of the important tasks of the organization was the furnishing of flags to the town of Monson, churches, schools, Boy

and Girl Scout Troops in the town and at the State Hospital, hospitals and organizations.

With the passing of the Grand Army Post in 1924 the Corps took over a good deal of their work, aiding veterans of all wars. Meetings are still held in Grand Army Hall which contains pictures and mementoes of many of the veterans of the Civil War and World Wars I and II.



CANNON AT SOLDIERS MONUMENT

The G. A. R. Post organized a Sons of Veterans Camp named A. A. Gage, in 1895 to assist them in their patriotic activities. Today the two remaining members, Dr. Frank Maguire and Henry Packard supervise the placing of flags on graves of Revolutionary and Civil War Veterans.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

In February 1898 a great explosion shook the harbor at Havana, Cuba. The blast destroyed the U. S. Battleship Maine. Two hundred and sixty American seamen were killed. The sinking of the Maine set the stage for the war between the U. S. and Spain. Do you recall the war cry?—"Remember the Maine, to H — with Spain."

The Spanish-American War began in April, 1898 and ended four months later. Hostilities ended on August 12, and a peace treaty was signed in Paris on December 10, 1898. This made Cuba free and gave the U. S. the Spanish possessions of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam, with the U. S. paying Spain \$20,000,000 for public property in the Philippines. At this same time Hawaii was annexed.

Spanish-American War Veterans whose names are inscribed on the tablet in the Memorial Town Hall are:

Harry E. Aldrich
Angelo N. Alonzo - Master Sergeant
Arthur E. Bates

Harry T. Chapin - first volunteer to enlist in the Spanish - American War, from Monson. He served in World War I and continued in the service as Major for thirty - two years.

Albert J. Gould

Ezra P. Gould - Corporal

Charles B. Howard

John F. Joyce

Lewis H. Lawton - Captain. He served in 1st World War 1914-1919.

Edward J. McKernin

James McQuaid

Arthur Norman

Several of these men saw service on the Philippine Islands.

Other veterans who helped to personify this conflict in the eyes of Monson citizens are:

John V. Colleton, Sr. — He also served in the Boxer Rebellion in China, and now resides at 4 Wales Road.

Fred Marsden — He acted as Marshal in the Memorial Day parades.

Myron Smith — He lived at South Main St. for many years.

David Steele — He managed the Town Farm during it's last years of existence.

Mr. Henry Packard writes in his report of the "Monson's Spanish-American War Veterans" — "After a veteran is discharged from service the United States Government knows nothing more about his life, unless he is on the pension list, or under government medical care."

Alberty, Walter Henry
Aldrich, Elmer Howard
Aliengena, Americo
Alonzo, Angelo Nicola
Alonzo, Antonio
Anderson, Herbert
Ashmore, Buell Leslie
Avella, Joseph Eugene

Ballou, Harry Arthur
Battige, Herbert Alfred
Beebe, Ralph Alonzo
2nd. Lt.

Borgeson, Alfred William
Borgeson, Charles
Bradway, Francis Earl
Bradway, Hiram E.
Brigham, Lindsey C.
Bugbee, Harry Winter

Burdick, Harold James

Cady, Henry F.
Cahill, Daniel F.
Cahill, Dennis P. Jr.
Cahill, Patrick Daniel
Cantwell, Lawrence Joseph
Cantwell, Thomas Patrick
*Caro, Heiman 1st. Lt.
Carter, James H.
Chappell, Laurence Joseph
Chappell, William James
Cheries, Joseph
Conforti, Basilio
Cooley, Ernest Raymond
Corish, William Thomas
Couture, Edward Joseph
Cunningham, William J.
Cushman, Rufus P. 2nd Lt.

WORLD WAR I

This was the war to end all wars, the war to save the world for democracy.



HOWITZER AT TOWN HALL

All efforts to keep the United States out of the European conflict were for naught. War was declared April 6, 1917. An expeditionary force was dispatched to France a short time afterwards. After several historic battles — Chateau Thierry, Ardennes, The Argonne — the troops of the Kaiser were forced to yield November 11, 1918.

Monson provided a large number of men. Some saw action, while others remained in this country, and the war was over before they were required to fight.

Cushman, William Allen

Dalton, John J.
Dalton, Walter Francis
Davis, Harold F.
Davis, Heber Alfred
Deltour, Louis Leonard

*Demickat, Joe
Donaghue, James J.
Drake, Clement Briggs
Drake, Edgar
Drechsler, Francis Arthur
Bugler
Duffy, Eugene Louis
Dugay, Joseph
Duggan, James Francis
*Duggan, John Joseph
Duggan, Mortimer
Dunning, Abram

- Eddy, George A.
 Entwistle, Clayton Ross
 Entwistle, Ralph Taylor
 Erickson, Arthur Amel
 Fahy, Frank V.
 Faulkner, Claude J.
 *Fellos, Raymond
 Flood, Everett David
 2nd. Lt.
 Flynt, Henry Needham
 2nd. Lt.
 Foley, Charles Bernard
 Foley, Frank Joseph
 Foley, Frank Raymond
 Foley, William Albert
 *Gaouette, Alfred Naon
 Giffin, Charles Dexter
 Giffin, Frank Omar
 *Giffin, George Lester
 Giffin, Harry Frank
 Giffin, Howard Newton
 Greene, Ransom A.
 Grindell, Durward Belmont
 Grindell, Orman Lawrence
 Guihan, John
 Gustafson, Gustave E. H.
 Gustafson, Walter O. E.
 Hale, Earl Thomas
 Hale, Lucius Knowlton
 Hanley, Edward A.
 Heffernan, Walter
 Heredeen, Charles Milton
 Higgins, Dominick David
 Hilliard, Edward James
 Hilliard, Thomas John
 Hirst, Albert G.
 Hodskins, Morgan Brester
 Capt.
 Holdridge, Arthur Ward
 Holloway, Frank S.
 Johnson, Arthur LeRoy
 Kearns, John E.
 Kendall, Wilfred Butler
 Kimber, Wilfred
 Kittredge, Harry B. Sergt.
 LaBelle, Joseph Jr.
 Larned, Walter McKinley
 Leahy, Edward Rafferty
 Leahy, John Henry
 Lehrer, Richard E.
 Leonard, Roger Earl Lt.
 Leonard, Royden Clapp
 1st. Lt.
 Leveille, Frank Louis
 Lewis, Charles Augustus
 Looney, Daniel Patrick
 Looney, Thomas Francis
 Luce, Sherwood Charles
 Manning, John Joseph
 Mathews, Stephen John
 *Mathieson, William G.
 McAuliffe, Nathaniel J.
 McAuliffe, Thomas Ward
 McCarthy, Arthur Martin
 McGowan, Alvin
 McMahon, Michael D.
 McPherson, Frank R.
 McQuaid, Francis J. L.
 Meaney, Frank Edward
 Meaney, John H.
 Merchant, George F.
 Moffett, Harold Samuel
 Moffett, William Van S.
 Monaghan, Peter F.
 Mooney, James T.
 Moore, Stanley Charles
 Moriarty, Daniel F.
 Moriarty, Edward James
 Moulton, Carl Francis
 Munsell, Roger L.
 Murphy, John Lawrence
 Murphy, William Henry
 Needham, Ralph C.
 Lt. Com.
 Neville, Henry J.
 Nobart, Alfred
 Norcross, Arthur D.
 North, Edgar Charles
 North, Harold Henry
 North, William McKinley
 O'Brien, Francis Lee
 O'Donnell, Raymond
 Oldfield, Harry Lees
 Chaplain
 Pease, Walter Eugene
 Penniman, Eliot Hale
 Plescia, Joseph C.
 Prendiville, John F. Jr.
 Proteau, Francis
 Prouty, Perlie K.
 *Purcell, Daniel Joseph
 Purcell, John Edward
 Purcell, Thomas
 Reed, Bert William
 Richardson, Clarence S.
 Roesener, Charles Albert
 Rogers, Francis Walker
 Rourke, John William
 Royce, Frederick A.
 Salsbury, Arthur Edward
 Sandgren, Van Buren
 Sears, Harold Tillinghast
 2nd. Lt.
 Shaw, Harold Eden
 Shelley, John Henry
 Shields, Luke Daniel
 Squier, Leonard Knight
 Sullivan, James John
 Sullivan, John Raymond
 Wagoner
 Swanstrom, Albert W.
 Swanstrom, Gustav A.
 Szelongowski, Joseph S.
 Taylor, Earl S.
 Vetti, Guiseppe
 Vight, Otto Harry
 Wallace, Raymond
 Ward, Charles Francis
 Warr, William Robert
 Watkins, Harvey M.
 1st. Lt.
 Welch, Frederick James
 Welch, Robert T.
 Williams, Clyde Carlton
 Wills, Evans Philip
 Wright, Wilbur
 S.A.T.C.
 Rogers, Wilfred E.
 Merchant Marine
 Constantino, James
 Proulx, Edmund Joseph
 American Red Cross Nurse
 Johnson, Myrtle
 Mathues, Mary A.
 *Killed in action



DANIEL PURCELL

The American Legion Post No. 241 was organized February 1920 by the veterans of World War I. It was named the Purcell Post in honor of the war hero, Daniel Purcell, who was killed in action at the front line of battle.

After World War II the veterans of this war and later the Korean War veterans joined the American Legion and the name

of LaBrecque was added in honor of Paul LaBrecque who lost his life in service.

August 1957, the World War I veterans organized the Monson Barracks of Veterans of World War I, U.S.A. No. 1003.

On April 5, 1921, a group of women composed of mothers, wives and sisters of the veterans of World War I, met to form the organization known as the American Legion Auxiliary.

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to aid the American Legion in carrying out its great programs of peace-time service to America, to which the Legion is dedicated. The major projects of the Auxiliary are caring for the disabled veterans, who are still hospitalized; the care of their children, and education of the youth; also serving our community.

The first president was Mrs. Nellie Holdridge. The Gold Star Mothers at this time were: Mrs. Julia Purcell, Mrs. Rose Gaouette and Mrs. Addie Giffin. In 1936 Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Ella Walker became a member, and in 1951 Mrs. Nina Thompson.

The Gold Star Mothers of World War II are Mrs. Thaddeus Burgiel, Mrs. Maria Osborn, Mrs. Rose LaBrecque, Mrs. Eva Palen, Mrs. Conchitta Verlotta, and Mrs. Clara Bogerson.



PAUL LEBRECQUE



WORLD WAR I HONOR ROLL

The Korean Conflict added two more Gold Star Mothers: Mrs. Mary L. Beauchemin and Mrs. Amy Miller.

In 1947 Mrs. Veronica Heintz became District Director of Hampden County Council of the American Legion Auxiliary. She is the only member of the Monson unit to hold this office.

World War I Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Rose Gaouette, presented \$500 to the Auxiliary, the interest to be used each year to buy a scholarship medal to be presented to the outstanding girl student in the 8th grade. This is given in memory of her son, Alfred Naon Gaouette.

World War II Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Maria Osborn, presented \$500 to the Auxiliary to be used as a memorial to her son, Gilbert Wayne Stansfield. On February 15, 1953, a Spinet piano was purchased with this money and presented to the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in memory of her son, and all other Monson boys who lost their lives in World War II.

The American Legion Auxiliary has presented a magazine rack and several books to the Monson Library in memory of its Gold Star Mothers. Two volumes of the History of the American Legion Auxiliary were presented in memory of Mrs. Addie Giffin, by her daughter, Miss Harriet Giffin. In 1959, the Auxiliary presented a book to the Library in memory of the deceased veteran, Francis Wytas, who lost his life in the flood of 1955.

WORLD WAR II

By 1939 the war cloud had settled over Europe. The idealism of World War I was missing. Everyone realized that this war was one for the preservation of our civilization.

The news of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on Sunday afternoon of December 7, 1941, was received directly, over radio, by every village in the nation.

Gradually more and more men left for the service either via the draft or as volunteers. More and more mail was received at the Post Office bearing "A.P.O. 925 San Francisco" and "A.P.O. 717 New York." War ceased September 2, 1945.

Shortages developed in consumer goods. Sugar, meat, gasoline, and other products were rationed, and a board was set up in each town to administer the system. Red and blue ration points were carried in every pocketbook along with the individual's ration books.



Thomas Faulkner
Veterans' Service Agent



RATION BOOK

Ration Board chairman — William Anderson.

Compulsory military training began September 16, 1940.

The Draft Board was No. 120 of Palmer with George Seymour as Monson chairman. Some headlines showing Monson events:

1943 — State Guard Parade.

1943 — Oct. — thirty-two members of the Canteen Corps of Monson Red Cross gave nine hundred fifty hours feeding the searchers for the 'Lost Pilot' in the Holland woods.

1944 — Benton survives Atlantic sinking.

1946 — Veterans' Welcome Home Celebration.

A Veterans' Service Center is maintained at the Town Hall Annex. Thomas Faulkner is the Director of Veterans' Services for the District of Eastern Hampden County which includes the towns of Monson, Hampden, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. In this position he handles all State and Federal benefits. The director is appointed by the District Board each year.

Mr. Faulkner also is the Veterans' agent for each of the five towns. He is appointed by the Selectmen of each town. This division handles all monetary aid to needy veterans of this district and their dependents. He also is Veterans' Burial agent, obtaining markers from the Government for veterans' graves.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Aldrich, George A.
Aldrich, John D.
Aliengena, Harry E.
Alden, Richard F.
Allen, Alva Jr.
Allen, Bernice B.
Amberzon, Alexander
Anderson, Edward H.
Anderson, Frederick C.
Anderson, Harold E.
Anderson, John E.
Alonzo, Angelo J.
Alonzo, Antonio, Jr.
Appleby, Frank Lloyd
Authier, John Robert
Authier, William H. Jr.

Bacon, Raymond C.
Ball, Carlos H.
Barrett, Hugh J.
Barry, Richard J.

Barsaleau, Arline M.
Battige, Carl S.
Battige, Herbert A. Jr.
Beaulieu, Clarence W.
Beaulieu, Sidney J.
Beauregard, Albert J.
Beauchemin,
Joseph A. Wilfred
Beauchemin,
Joseph Clement
Beauchemin,
Joseph Peter Rene
Beckwith, Donald E.
Benton, Henry W.
Bergeron, Clarence F.
Bergeron, Clyde J.
Berube, Victor E.
Billodeau, Richard N.
Birmingham, William J.
Blakeborough, Donald W.

Blakeborough, Francis J.
Borgeson, Charles R. Jr.
Bouchard, Russell E.
Bradway, Carl H.
Bradway, Frederick C.
Bramble, Dwight A.
Bren, Gordon A.
Bridges, Harold E.
Bristol, Earl I.
Brisard, Alfred P.
Broderick, James W.
Broderick, John R.
Brothers, Alfred E.
Brow, Earl D.
Brow, Richard
Brown, Albert R.
Brown, Herbert C.
Brown, J. Leland
Bryant, Raymond O.
Buffington, Charles R.

Buffington, John F.
Burgiel, Edwin E.
*Burgiel, Thaddeus S.
Burke, Arthur C.
Burke, Raymond L.

Callahan, William E.
Cantwell, James F. Jr.
Cantwell, Richard F.
Capen, Erdix W.
Carew, Ralph N.
Carpenter, Austin W.
Galas, Albion H.
Carpenter, Ernest C.
Carter, Howard V.
Cascella, John G.
Cascella, Thomas D.
Chaffee, George E.
Chaffee, Robert E.
Charwick, Frank W.
Church, Durward J.
Cieplinski, Stanley J.
Cole, William C.
Colleton, John V. Jr.
Columbia, Francis D.
Comeau, Dennis J.
Constantino, Anthony J.
Constantino, Joseph M.
Cook, Robert C.
Coolong, Joseph J.
Corish, John R. Jr.
Corish, Phillip D.
Costa, John F.
Couture, Alfred J. Jr.
Couture, Armand N.
Crowley, Richard B.
Crowley, William G.
Cruse, Calvin C.

Davenport, Floyd L. Jr.
Davis, Charles B.
Davis, Howard A.
Defoe, Francis P.
Deltour, Robert J.
DeMartino, Joseph M.
DeMartino, Marie A.
Dempsey, Phillip E.
Dempsey, Verner S.
DePace, Victor L.
Derrig, Francis T.
Donovan, Joseph E.
Donovan, William F.
Drake, Clement B. Jr.
Drake, Francis H.
Dudar, Eli F. Jr.
Dudar, John C.
Dugay, Charles W.
Dugay, George F.
Dugay, John R.
Dugay, Robert J.
Dugay, Walter A.
Duggan, James M.

Duggan, John M.
Duggan, Thomas J.
Duncan, Walter H.
Dziergowski, Frank P.
Ellis, Dwight W. Jr.
Entwistle, Ralph T. Jr.
Farquhar, Arnold S.
Farquhar, Douglas A.
Farr, Duncan L.
Faulkner, Thomas J.
Fay, Robert S. Jr.
Fegan, Donald D.
Felton, Roland J.
Field, Pearl B.
Finnegan, Edward C.
Finnegan, William F.
Fischer, Karl
Folkins, Harold A.
Freeman, Robert G.
Fritz, Waldemar N.
Fromme, Frederick W.
Fromme, Thomas J.
Fuller, Leslie W.

Galas, Albion H.
Galas, Benedict F.
Galas, Theodore J.
Galasso, Antonio
Galasso, Lawrence J.
Galasso, Luigi F.
Galica, John H.
Galica, Matthew D.
Gaouette, Dudley W.
Gates, Phillip H.
Gelina, F. Stuart
Gernon, Arthur P, Jr.
Gilbert, Earl M.
Gola, Alfred G.
Gola, John E.
Gola, Stanley J.
Gould, Edward P.
Gould, Gordon Q.
Gould, R. Kenneth
Gould, Robert J.
Graves, Edward J.
Guilmette, Florimond J.
Gunther, Ernest W.
Gunther, Joseph A.
Gustafson, Edward L.
Gustafson, Ethel H.
Gustafson Evert W.
Gustafson, James W.
Gustafson, Oscar W.
Guy, William G.

Hale, Charles F.
Hale, Edward J.
Hale, Forrest P. Jr.
Hale, Henry S. Jr.
Hall, Gordon E.

Hall, Robert G.
Hammond, Walter P.
Hanifan, John J.
Hanley, Edward A. Jr.
Hanson, Raymond F.
Hanson, William C.
Haraghey, John H.
Haraghey, William
Heck, Kenneth R.
Heintz, Francis E.
Hellig, A. Clinton
Henrichon, Clarence L.
Henrichon, Irene L.
Hermanson, Ernest W.
Hermanson, Harold E.
Hermanson, Gunnar A.
*Hirst, Howard
Hirst, Robert G.
Hirst, Thomas R.
Hodge, Russell L.
Hodskins, Morgan B. Jr.
Holda, Bernard J.
Holda, Chester S.
Holda, Matthew J.
Holda, Mitchell F.
Holda, Stanley W.
Holda, Walter F.
Holley, Wayland J.
Hubert, Lewis L.
Hughes, George E.
Hull, Edmund W.
Hull, John E.

Ingraham, James E.
Jameson, Charles L.
Jasiak, Frederick S.
Jaworski, Stanley A.

Kearns, Francis E.
Keeley, Thomas H. Jr.
Kellerian, Louis
Kellough, Donald M.
Kellough, George E. Jr.
Kenerson, Walter F.
Kibbe, Marvin R.
Kisiel, Frederick J.
Klisiewicz, Edward R.
Klisiewicz, Frank
Klisiewicz, John Jr.
Klisiewicz, Raymond E.
Knight George C.
Kowal, John S.
Kowil, Samuel W.
Kozikowski, Edward A.
Koziol, Walter R.
Kwasnik, Joseph
Kwiatrowski, Frank

LaBrecque, George A.
*LaBrecque, Paul S.

- LaFlamme, Joseph A.
 LaFlamme, Herve R.
 LaFlamme Normand A.
 LaFond, James J.
 LaMountain, Amos P.
 LaPierre, Francis N.
 LaPierre, Joseph T.
 LeCours, Gerard D.
 LeMay, Lester J.
 Leveille, Archie E.
 Leveille, Thomas G.
 Litz, William E. Jr.
 Looney, James P.
 Lynch, Eileen R.
 Lynch, James P.
 Lynch, John J.
 Lynch, Martin P.
 Lynch, Matthew J.
 MacRae, William W.
 MacRae, Sydney L.
 Magrone, Paul F.
 Malo, Normand F.
 Malo, Rene N.
 Malo, Robert A.
 Manzi, Charles J.
 Marciniak, Frank S.
 Marinelli, Joseph R.
 Martell, Lester R.
 Martell, Walter A.
 Mason, Kenneth L.
 Maxwell, Charles A.
 Maxwell, Elliot L.
 Mayers, Norman S.
 McCahey, James T. Jr.
 McClosky, Joseph W.
 McClosky, Peter J.
 McClosky, Theodore F.
 McCray, Robert C.
 McEwen, James O.
 McKenna, Charles
 *McMahon, Neal R.
 McMahon, Robert A.
 McMahon, Ruth M.
 Meacham, Grant L.
 Meacham, Lloyd H.
 Medicke, Charles L.
 Miller, Frank E.
 Miller, George A.
 Miller, Herbert C.
 Miller, Ralph B.
 Miller, Raymond K.
 Miller, Robert E.
 Mills, Blair P.
 Misiaszek, Frank E.
 Misiaszek, Joseph J.
 Misiaszek, Konstanty
 Misiaszek, Stanley E.
 Mitchell, Frank
 Moffett, Donald W.
 Moffett, Warren V.
 Monaghan, George E.
 Monty, Armand E.
 Moore, Lauriston B.
 Moore, Kenneth C.
 Moore, Stanley F.
 Moores, Lyman T.
 Moran, James J.
 Moran, John D.
 Moran, Raymond H.
 Moriarty, John P. Jr.
 Morris, Francis W.
 Morris, Harold K.
 Mosher, Robert C.
 Moulton, Ralph R. Jr.
 Mulcahy, Andrew J. Jr.
 Mulcahy, Edward B.
 Murphy, John R.
 Needham, Ralph C.
 Nelson, Charles F.
 Nones, Ralph R.
 Norcross, Charles F.
 North, Edgar G.
 Nothe, Gilbert C.
 Nothe, William F.
 O'Connor, Daniel F.
 O'Connor, Henry M.
 Orpin, William J.
 Osborn, Charles Wendell
 *Palin, Edmond J.
 Parady, Ranson D. Jr.
 Pascale, Michael F.
 Pascale, William E.
 Pasco, Harold L.
 Pasco, Robert C.
 Pease, Elvie W.
 Pease, Winfield M.
 Peck, Dwight A.
 Peck, Francis F.
 Peck, Horace T.
 Pierce, Russell B.
 Pincince, Jane A.
 Pincince, Marcellin J.
 Pincince, Norman T.
 Pincince, Raymond L.
 Pincince, Robert L.
 Pincince, Roger R.
 Piontek, Stanley A.
 Platkin, Harold
 Platkin, William
 Plato, Stanley R.
 Potemski, Henry J.
 Potkai, Chester J.
 Potkai, Edward P.
 Potkai, Walter J.
 Potkai, Stanley F.
 Prendiville, Thomas E.
 Proulx, William G.
 Raymond, Darwin L.
 Raymond, Theodore
 Raymond, Winfred
 Richardson, Warren A.
 Richardson, William D.
 Ricketts, John P.
 Robbins, Allan B.
 Robbins, Andrew R.
 Robbins, Douglas
 Robichaud, Leo G.
 Robichaud, Louis H.
 Robichaud, Raymond P.
 Ross, Carl B.
 Ross, Raymond A.
 Ross, Robert W.
 Royce, Mayne D.
 Ryan, Francis J.
 Sagan, Edwin M.
 Salinger, Arnold C.
 Santy, Barbara A.
 Scannell, Wilfred J.
 Scannell, William F.
 Schneider, Benjamin
 M.D. (Doctor)
 Scott, Clifford P.
 Serrato, Albert J.
 Shaw, Robert F.
 Shelly, Frederick J.
 Shields, John F.
 Shields, William F.
 Sierakowski, Joseph L.
 Skomro, Chester J.
 Skomro, Stanley W.
 Skomro, Theodore P.
 Skwark, Ferdinand S. P.
 Skwark, Peter A.
 Smiraglia, Calogero J.
 Slam, Walter F.
 Smith, Edward S.
 Smith, Maurice M.
 Smith, Walter J.
 Smith, Warren W.
 Soukup, Jerry A.
 Souliere, Richard E.
 Stacy, Clifford E.
 Stacy, Ernest E. Jr.
 Stebbins, Donald E.
 Stebbins, Winifred C.
 Steele, Harold
 Stevens, Richard I.
 *Stansfield, Gilbert Wayne
 Jr.
 Stanton, Kenneth A.
 Stockwell, Bryce G.
 Stockwell, Earl L.
 Suchoki, Frank
 Stone, George H.
 Stone, William P. Jr.
 Taft, Edwin R.

Taft, Phillip F.
Tait, David H.
Talmadge, John A.
Tassinari, Alfeo R.
Tassinari, Remo L.
Thomas, David R.
Thomas, Leslie
Thomas, Lloyd H.
Thomas, Robert H.
Thorin, Harry
Tobin, John C.
Toner, James H.
Tonon, Mario A.
Tucker, Cedric O.
Tucker, George O.

Uliana, Antonio A.
*Uliana, Gildo J.
Uliana, John H.
Uliana, Nisio F.
Uliana, Venanzio D.

Vadnais, Henry E.
Vaill, Stanley H.
Verlotta, Anthony
Verlotta, Carmen L.

Verlotta, John
Verlotta, Nicholas M. Jr.
*Verlotta, Patsy
Vight, Eugene W.
Vight, Lloyd B.

Walker, Francis J.
Wallace, James L.
Webster, Ethelbert J. Jr.
Webster, George H.
Welch, Robert E.
Welch, William M.
Wheaton, Gabriel D.
Whitaker, Francis J.
White, Howard R. T.
White, Thomas A.
Whitfield, William D.
Wilbur, John W.
Wood, Bernard M.
Wood, Charles W.
Wood, Emily V.
Wood, John W.
Wytas, Edward J.
Wytas, Francis W.

Young, Lucius E.

Young, Richmond E. Jr.
Zollett, William S.

NURSES

Bragiel, Lillian E.
Carew, Jessie E.
Citoski, Anna M.
Doherty, Eleanor F.
Hladky, Mamie H.
Maynard, Ruth E.
Moore, Phyllis E.
Parker, Evelyn V.
Scott, Virginia M.
Squier, Priscilla
Stewart, Constance M.
Sullivan, Mary E.
Swartz, Kathryn F.
Walker, Rita B.
White, Constance J.
Young, Caroline L.

KOREAN CONFLICT

On June 25, 1950, when the North Koreans attacked their southern brothers, President Harry S. Truman lost no time in sending troops to stifle the threat of world domination by the Communists. Thus the

"cold war" with the Russians was continued until an armistice was signed on July 22, 1953.

This Korean war saw the following citizens involved:

KOREAN VETERANS

Aldrich, Edward C.
Aldrich, William H.
Allen, Bernice B.
Allen, Richard W.

Barnes, Theodore V.
Beauchemin Jean F
*Beauchemin, J. Clement
Beauchemin, J. Rene
Beauchemin, J. Wilfred
Bouchard, Clyde W.
Brisard, Richard J.
Beaulieu, Theodore T.
Beaulieu, Francis H.
Bolaske, Joseph F.
Brunelle, Bernard J.
Buffington, John F.

Cady, Eugene H.
Calkins, George H.
Cantwell, David M.
Carpenter, Harold D.
Carpenter, C. Kenneth
Cascella, Thomas D.
Chalue, Arthur E.
Church, John H.

Cireagis, George T.
Clark, Walter
Cleveland, Elmer L.
Cody, George E.
Corish, Sherwood P.
Curtis, Arthur L.
Czapla, Stanislaw J.

Davey, Robert H.
Dewey, David E.
DiGeorgio, John S.
Donovan, Robert J.
Drake, Wilbur R.

Elliot, Walter J.

Farquhar, Arnold S.
Farquhar, Edward H.
Finnerty, John F.
Finnegan, William F.
Francis, Edward W. Jr.
Fromme, Frederick W.

Gaouette, Dudley W.
Gauthier, Henry W.
Gauthier, Louis R. Jr.
Gernon, Alfred

Gould, Rev. Howard D.
Gould, Robert K.

Haley, Gerald F.
Hammond, Walter P.
Haraghey, William
Haraghey, Robert G.
Hatton, William B. Jr.
Heath, Freeman B.
Heintz, Henry A.
Hickey, Robert E.
Hobson, Edward S.
Honea, Howard F.
Hopfe, Robert L.
Hull, Stanley P.
Hunter, Merton W.

Jacobs, Albert J.
Jacobs, Robert F.
Jacobs, Santo L.
Jacobs, Stevenson C.
Johnson, Edward C. Jr.

Kane, Albert D. Jr.
Kane, William J.
Kendall, Carl L.

Kittel, William A.	Muller, Charles L.	Scannell, John P.
Klisiewicz, Edward R.	Murphy, Ralph C. Jr.	Schetzl, Edward J.
Knight, George E.	Nash, Richard M.	Smith, C. Russell
Knight, Richard F.	Nichols, William	Smith, Edward S.
LaBrecque, Robert	North, Daniel R.	Smith, John E.
LaRoche, Anthony H.	North, Harold E.	Soukup, Jerry A.
Letendre, Laurier J. Jr.	North, Robert E.	Stebbins, Harold W.
Leal, August G.	O'Connor Henry M.	Stanton, Kenneth A.
Long, Nelson W.	Page, Clair S.	Syrenne, Harry F. Jr.
LeGrand, Donald G.	Parker, Eveyne V. R.N.	Stebbins, Kenneth E.
LeMay, Ronald F.	Pascale, Roger A.	Taft, Robert J.
Lemelin, Martin J.	Pascale, William E.	Teale, Edward F.
Letter, George F.	Peck, Horace T.	Thomas, David R.
Lolas, Alexander V.	Paul, Norman A.	Underwood, Marjorie E.
Malo, Albert G.	Picking, John G.	Underwood, Patricia A.
Martell, Francis J.	Plumley, Richard R.	Walker, Charles L. Jr.
Malo, J. Henry	Poulin, Dwight W.	Weldon, Ralph S. Jr.
Martin, Joseph W.	Proulx, Edmond J.	Wheeler, Harold E.
McClosky, Edwin A.	Reed, Lawrence N.	Whitaker, Harold J. Jr.
McCleary, John E.	Robbins, John F.	Wood, Roscoe K.
*Miller, Harry J.	Royce, Gordon C.	Wright, Kenneth I.
Miller, James R.	Ryan, Francis J.	Wytas, Robert E.
Misiaszek, Walter J.		Young, Andrew H.
Moulton, Harold F.		

Looking To The Future

One of the first important events of Monson's second two-hundred year span is to be a gigantic celebration honoring our forefathers and paying tribute to the heritage they have passed on to us.

It was voted at the 1959 Town Meeting to appoint a committee of five to plan a suitable celebration. Frederick J. Sullivan, Jr. was appointed chairman, to be assisted by Thomas Hilliard, Albert Jordan. Mrs. John Hanic, and Mrs. Milton Makepeace. Several hundred people have been appointed to various sub-committees to plan and execute the many events scheduled. After preliminary plans were submitted at a special Town Meeting in December 1959, ten thousand dollars was appropriated to carry out the program.

A twenty-two page booklet, *The Story of Monson*, was written and illustrated by Mary R. Newland. This will be distributed

to all school children at the fall session. The various women's organizations in town cooperated to have commemorative dishes designed. These dishes, together with a commemorative coin and pin-back button will be on sale throughout the celebration. The Monson Garden Club has begun a "beautify the town" campaign with the planting of flowers in the two fountains. A "Member of the Brush" club has been formed with over two hundred members. Cups will be awarded for the best beards.

The official Bicentennial program begins on September 24, 1960, with Children's Day including games and a bicycle and doll carriage parade during the afternoon. The Bicentennial Ball will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall with Al Strohman's Orchestra furnishing music. The crowning of the Queen is to be the featured event.



The Monson Bicentennial Committee has planned for the celebration. The members of the committee include, left to right, seated: Dorothy Hanic, treasurer; Thomas Hilliard, vice chairman; standing, Fred Sullivan, chairman and Albert Jordan.

Special services have been arranged in all churches for Sunday, September 25th and a non-denominational service will be held in the afternoon. Norman Myrick, Editor of *Milk Review* and an authority on Connecticut Valley history, has been engaged as the principal speaker.

Monday through Friday the town will be on review with special exhibits planned for store windows, and an exhibition of items of historic interest to Monson. Our three largest industrial plants, A. D. Ellis Mills, Inc., C. F. Church Manufacturing Company, and Springfield Moulders, will conduct guided tours through their plants as will Monson State Hospital.

On Monday night, September 26th, a pageant entitled "Cover Girl — 200 years" will be presented under the direction of the Monson School Teachers' group. The Monson Fire Department will exhibit their equipment in a special demonstration on Wednesday night, September 28th.

The Co-op parking lot will be the scene of two outdoor dances, Friday night, the Square Dancers with Red Bates and Fran Heintz calling, will take over. An old-fashioned Block Dance with prizes offered for appropriate costumes, is a feature of Saturday night.

A Special Events program on Saturday afternoon will commence with flag-raising ceremonies and a dedication of Veteran's Field. Other events include an exhibition by Jim Nichols, famous one-armed golfer, a precision drill team, Judo contest, performance by the Hosago Indians of Springfield College and a skirmish by Whitcomb Rangers from Northampton. A fireworks display will climax the Saturday night program.

The closing event, a gigantic parade, will begin at 1:30 p. m. Sunday. The parade will disband on Veteran's Field where the various bands will render selections.

FLOOD CONTROL

In order to prevent a repetition of the flood damage incurred in 1955, Army engineers have made a survey of this area and prepared a plan to construct a dam about three hundred feet from the present Conant Dam, nearly opposite the watering trough, the estimated cost being about two million dollars. If this plan is accepted, it will necessitate the expenditure of about two hundred-eighty thousand dollars for changes that will have to be made in the present water

system. This expense is included in the two million estimated cost.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Several housing developments: Crest Road, leading north from Brimfield Road; Cedarhurst Drive, leading west from Town Farm Road; Maple Lawn Drive, leading west from Palmer Road; Country Club Heights, leading from Palmer Road; Valley View Heights, leading north from Reynold's Avenue and a still unnamed development on the Upper Stafford Road have modern attractive homes which have been constructed recently. The projects are continuing to expand.

Other areas, Lake Paradise formerly called Smith Pond and Pulpit Rock in Silver Street are developments for both summer and permanent residents.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

At the annual town meeting in 1959 it was voted that the Board of Selectmen establish the Monson Industrial Development Commission. This year the chairman, Carlos H. Ball, reported the following:

"Although prospects of large scale industries for Monson are remote, the mere creation of the commission is a definite step forward. Not since the days of World War I has there been any kind of organized effort to bring new industry into Monson."

"Attracting new industries to a community is a long range activity of a permanent nature to be understood and supported by the whole community."

Even though predominantly a residential community, Monson is both anxious and willing to do what it can do to acquire new businesses and manufacturers.

Having made the initial effort, it is hoped that favorable results may be realized.

We may wonder as we look over this land and see how the first few settlements have grown, to the present population of 6686, how much more growth it will be possible to attain. Yet, if we but ponder for a short time, we realize that with that spirit that permeated our ancestors, there are still many challenges for us to meet,—

"So with efforts received from patterns set,

Let us make Monson better yet."

Acknowledgements

The Monson Historical Society organized in April 1959 for the purpose of obtaining and preserving historical data pertaining to Monson; collecting such articles as books, pictures and documents of special interest to the people of Monson; and encouraging and developing the pursuit and expression of such interests in all suitable ways.

Plans were already underway for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Monson and as no book devoted exclusively to the town's history had as yet been published, it was voted to undertake this project. As this infant organization had no library assembled, it was deemed advisable to contact the townspeople and former residents for their help and cooperation. This was done through the medium of newspaper appeals, letters, phone calls, and personal contact, to as wide a group of people as time permitted.

Everyone cooperated to the fullest extent and it would be impossible to list all who contributed material. They all have our deepest appreciation and thanks, for without them this book would have been impossible.

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following people for their special research efforts or extensive volume of material.

Miss Sylvia DeSantis of the Monson Library; Mrs. Robert Streeter of the Brimfield Library; Mr. Henry Sanderson, Town Clerk; Mr. John Moriarty, Bookkeeper; and Mrs. Julia Spooner, Town Clerk of Brimfield, for their patience and time spent in ferreting out the many records at their disposal.

For the many scrap books, clippings and pictures so carefully preserved and generously loaned, we are indebted to Frank Beckwith, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Noble, Mrs. Luke Shields, John Murphy, Homer Squier, Miss Harriet Cushman, Mrs. Eudocia Dewey Jones, Miss Olivia Flynt, Henry Packard, Mrs. John Nelligan, Miss Alice Carpenter, Mrs. Louis Aldrich, Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, Mrs. Perlin Soule, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tidd, Dr. Frank Maguire, Mrs. Edward Cushman, Dr. Harold Bennett, Miss Ruth Thorin, Mrs. Harold North, Miss Marcella Crowley, Michael Crowley, Mrs. Mary Mooney, Mr. and Mrs. William Foskit, Miss Mary

Robbins, Mrs. Richmond Young, Miss Thelma Bugbee, Mrs. Walter Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Kimber, Robert Johnson, and Mrs. Florence Johnson Whiton, and Mrs. Henry Sanderson.

Valuable records and information for specific chapters were received from the following sources:

Church History — The Reverends R. Hoey, A. O'Brien, A. Sawyer, C. Straight, and Henry Pease.

Schools—Mrs. Helynn Haley and George Rogers

Monson State Hospital — Dr. Roger Osterheld

Industry — Mrs. Mary Squier Gates, D. W. Ellis, Jr., Victor Rosenlund, Daniel B. Wesson, Fred Clarkson and Heber Davis.

Utilities — Thomas Hilliard; Herman Winter; John R. Moynihan, Manager of Palmer Telephone Office; Mrs. Dorothy Dalton; R. C. Ballou of the Worcester County Electric Company; and S. F. Nasiatka, Assistant District Supervisor of the Central Vermont Railway.

Early Houses — Owners of the various pieces of property, and Harry Edson on the Silver Street section.

Military — Thomas Faulkner, Members of the World War II Honor Roll Committee and Warner Sturtevant.

To our advertisers we extend special thanks for performing the two-fold purpose of providing a valuable business directory of 1960 in addition to making it possible to present this history to you at a moderate price.

The librarians at Springfield, Palmer, Worcester Antiquarian Society, Connecticut Valley Historical Society, Westfield Athenaeum, and Somers and Union Connecticut, have all been most helpful.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Copeland, Albert Minot, *A History of Hampden County, Massachusetts*, Volume 3, The Century Memorial Publishing Company, 1902.

Eddy, Charles W., *Monson Illustrated with Pen and Camera*, Ware, 1884.

Everts, Louis H., *History of Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, Philadelphia, 1879.

Holland, Josiah G., *History of Western Massachusetts*, S. Bowles & Company, Springfield, 1855.

Hyde, Reverend Charles M., *Historical Celebration of the Town of Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts*, Springfield, 1879.

Johnson, Clifton, *Hampden County, 1636 — 1936*; American Historical Society, New York, 1936.

————— *Monson Illustrated*, Carpenter, Cady & Thresher, Monson, 1897.

Peck, Chauncey E., *The History of Wilbraham, Massachusetts*, Wilbraham, 1914.

————— *Dorcas Dishes*, (Second Edition), Monson, 1906.

Ely, Reverend Alfred, A.M., "A Sermon Delivered at Monson Mass., Dec. 22, 1820, on the 2nd centurial anniversary of the landing of the fathers of New England at Plymouth", Hartford, 1821.

Patrons and Patronesses

Mrs. Albert Aliengena
Seffner, Florida
Miss Esther Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Carlos H. Ball
Dr. and Mrs. Howard Barber
Mrs. Ruby Smith Blodgett
Northampton, Massachusetts
Joseph Hobert Bondzio Burgen
Holyoke, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie A. Carpenter
Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Chase
South Weymouth, Massachusetts
Mrs. Mary Johnson Clark
Easthampton, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Colling
Mrs. Edward F. Cushman
Palmer, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Farr
Mrs. Faith H. Ferguson and sons Michael
and Tucker
Miss Esther Holmes Flynt
Winter Park, Florida
Miss Olivia C. Flynt
Winter Park, Florida
Mr. and Mrs. William Foskit
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Grindell
Mr. and Mrs. Chester S. Holda
Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Holley
Miss Ruth Ingraham
Portland, Oregon
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson
Hohokus, New Jersey
Miss Marian P. Keep
Watertown, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lewis
Winter Garden, Florida
Mrs. Mildred Lombard

Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. McCray
South Hadley, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. McCray
Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Magill
Miss Gertrude Makepeace
Miss Lucy Makepeace
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Makepeace
Mrs. John E. Marshall
Winter Park, Florida
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Miller
Mr. and Mrs. H. Leroy Moffett
East Longmeadow, Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Moulton
Ralph and Mira K. Moulton
Mrs. W. Lloyd Moulton
Tampa, Florida
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. James Nichols
Mr. and Mrs. Giles Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Partelo
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pinand
Winchester, New Hampshire
Walter D. and Alyce C. Raleigh
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Richardson
Mr. John Robbins
Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Rogers
Mrs. Robert Reid (Winnie Stacy)
Manchester, Connecticut
Reverend Camillo L. Santini, C.P.S.
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Mrs. Frank Santucci and Sylvia
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Soukup
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Stone
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Whitaker, Jr.
Huntington Station, New York
Mrs. Florence Johnson Whiton
Springfield, Massachusetts

In Memoriam

Ralph N. Carew, Sr.

Henry S. Hale, Sr.

Helen Thompson Johnston

Charles C. Keep

Pearl Beckwith Keep

Frances Lombard

Mr. and Mrs. Orrin C. McCray

Reverend Andrew Magill

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Perkins

Charles E. Robbins

Mr. and Mrs. William J. E. Sheriffs

Dr. Charles Oscar and Carrie King Thompson

Table of Contents

	PAGE		PAGE
EARLY MAP OF MONSON	4-5	BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL	81
GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	6	Professional History	81
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	8	Business Houses of the 1800's	85
CHURCH HISTORY	12	Business Houses of the 1900's	92
EDUCATION	19	Business Directory of 1960	93
Public	19	MONSON STATE HOSPITAL	105
Private	28	PUBLIC SERVICES	109
TOWN DEPARTMENTS	34	United States Post Office	109
Elected Officials — 1960	34	Railroads	110
Road Department	37	Electricity	111
Cemeteries	44	Telephone	111
Police Department	48	EARLY HOME SITES	113
Fire Department	49	THUMBNAIL SKETCHES	131
Water Department	52	ORGANIZATIONS	145
MEMORIALS	55	MILITARY RECORD	147
Memorial Hall	55	LOOKING TO THE FUTURE	167
Libraries	56	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	169
Soldiers Monument	58	PATRONS AND PATRONESSES	170
Fountains	59	IN MEMORIAM	171
Flynt Park	60		
INDUSTRY	62		

HECKMAN
BINDERY INC.



MAY 89

N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962

